

know Senator Hannibal has passed out material saying you really shouldn't use consumer price index to budget, that's not a really good way to do it. I would tend to agree. I think you have to look at other factors and weigh them before you make a decision. But if we are to look at consumer price index as one yardstick in which to compare the University budget, what it would tell me is that the University did do well early on in the seventies but haven't done as well lately in the late seventies and early eighties, and, in fact, haven't kept up with inflation. Now there is a lot of things you have to look at perhaps. Perhaps they did pretty well in the seventies and thus had more than they needed in terms of keeping up with inflation and so they could adjust and keep up. I am not so sure. I have seen a vast change at the University since I was a student and graduated in '77. I have seen classes that were available not available any more. I have seen students having to wait in line to get access to computers, students not able to get classes that they need, having entrance exams and minimum standards that were never there before when I was there. And generally access to higher education at the University has been diminished, hasn't been cut off but it has been diminished. It has been harmed. It has been wounded but not maimed. And in my estimation, it is partly as a result of the cuts in the budget that have occurred over the last six or seven years. As I indicated, they did not keep up with inflation and so change has occurred at the University. They have cut back. They have attempted to be more efficient and have attempted to diminish the size and role and scope of the University and I think that has to be recognized. We don't have a bloated giant over there that is overstuffed with food and needs to go on a diet. I think perhaps a diet is in order but that is because we need them lean and strong and not necessarily because they have had more than their share over the years. I think that is what the figures would indicate and I think any attempt to try and denigrate the University to appease whatever constituency may be interested in that is a mistake.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. So I am suggesting that the budget package is one that is agreeable to me with the exception of the \$1.3 million cut. I think that is not justified and I would urge you to look at the figures in