

be dealt with. Senator Nichol said we need to get down to business and go to work. I've worked harder today probably than any single day since I've been in the Legislature. He said, "Do something," but he's not sure what we ought to do so I'm giving us something to do. I'm making a very reasonable recommendation and I'm making it for this reason. What I'm offering first of all is within the rules. Everything I have attempted to do has been within the rules. I have made no motion to suspend the rules at any point so all I have done has been within the rules as they exist without stretching, bending or asking that they be suspended. Secondly, there is nothing in the Constitution that requires us to pass a budget bill during the 90 days of a 90-day session. I don't know if there is anything in the Constitution that requires us to pass a budget bill per se at any point. Maybe somebody who is supposed to get some money from the state could bring in some kind of claim against the state and then we'd go around and fumble and pass a deficit appropriation bill or something at a later date, but we don't have to pass a budget bill this session if we decide not to. But I think that the Legislature will pass one, and as I said, I don't remember, my time is kind of running, I don't know if I said it yesterday, today or just when, but if you raise any number to the zero power, that number is one which means we always wind up right back where we started from and that's what we're going to do. Ultimately we're going to be looking at that appropriations bill in the form it was in before the Appropriations Committee went out and played God and decided, in their subjective manner, that programs that weren't important to them ought to be just wiped off the board, but the sacred cows like the Road Department ought not be touched and we'll be right back where we started from. And some people who are new here will have learned some very valuable lessons. Some of the new senators who were told to play along with one side or the other and take that position and hold it might stand up and make positions orally for everybody to hear, but those who put them up to saying that didn't say anything. They didn't get themselves out on the limb or in a box and say, I'm going to do this or that, they sat back in the bushes and were quiet. So the new senators are being taught something by these wily old stalkers after power. The only time some of them can get power over individuals though is when those individuals don't know the ropes and don't understand the rules or the lack of rules. But they catch on when they get stung and burned real well. What