

June 5, 1985

balconies of this Chamber and the Rotunda of this Capitol arguing for the preservation of their school. You know, personally, how disappointed they were when 662 was signed by me into law. They felt real disappointment. They felt as if their government, in some way, had let them down. You, I'm sure, saw disappointment. I saw disappointment, certainly, when I met with the county assessors and told them that we would not be able to fund LB 809, the homestead exemption. They had planned on that homestead exemption being funded. They expected that it would be funded, and they were disappointed. We have seen all kinds of individual people in the budget process be disappointed, expecting and hoping to get more than we allowed them in this session of the Legislature and perhaps none more significant, none more difficult for us than the advocacy commissions themselves. We saw individual people express their sheer disappointment. We saw people be disappointed this morning when I signed the seat belt law into law, now, people saying that government shouldn't be asking us to do that sort of thing. They expected that government would not and now find themselves in a position where government is asking them to do something that perhaps they do not even want to do. We know what disappointment is like and we've seen a lot of it. I'm sure that you have faced hundreds of constituents in this particular session and have seen those constituents ask for something only to be disappointed by your answer. You have faced all kinds of vested interests and, in my opinion, have faced them courageously. There were a number of you in this body who were very disappointed by our unwillingness to permit local option video. We find a tremendous, in fact, internal strife go on in this body and many members of this body very disappointed by the failure to permit that local option video. You know what it means to be disappointed. But let me point out what I believe has been accomplished. The budget itself is a remarkable document, \$828 million expended, not much more than was expended last year, by the time you calculate inflation, or by the time you calculate the deficit appropriation for this year, less money spent this year than last. Yet we allocated \$10.3 million for state employees salaries, we allocated \$4 million for special education, \$6.8 million for Medicaid to the counties, and \$2 million for the takeover of the municipal court system. A remarkable effort on the part of this body to narrow the scope of government and provide resources into areas of greater importance, a significant, I think, moment by this