

SENATOR WARNER: As I indicated earlier, there is...the limitation on authorized spending in the Department of Roads, and you are correct, this may be indicated...this sometimes exists in other agencies as well, the limit is on the total for the agency and they do have some flexibility to move funds if required between programs. And we give that authorization periodically. We retain these in the appropriation bills though for accounting purposes, reporting purposes, so that you can accurately determine whether or not they have spent funds, for example, for highway administration as they had programmed to do so and it becomes an overview situation where the committee the following year would review, if there was significant departure from that, as to why it was and if it was justified. Now, one of the reasons you do that in a case such as the Department of Roads, you get the program where snow removal is contained. One year you may have a great deal of extra help for snow removal that is necessary and the following year very minimal amount. That doesn't change the total appropriation of the department but they may be utilizing those funds for highway improvements rather than for highway maintenance such as snow removal. Depending on the circumstances, that gives them some flexibility.

SENATOR HALL: So in other words, if there is excess funds in the highway administration side of things, they can dump that into construction?

SENATOR WARNER: I don't think they dump it in but I think they probably would have projects (interruption)

SENATOR HALL: Oh, just looking at any amounts, I might say that, you know...

SENATOR WARNER: But, you know, it's the kind of...

SENATOR HALL: That might be a good...that might be the adjective I was looking for.

SENATOR WARNER: It's the kind of thing, for example, because of the failure of the department...of the federal government, or Congress, rather, to appropriate this year's federal programs, we currently now have \$38 million of programs that were scheduled to be constructed this year that have been abolished for this year. Now, if it is possible to pick up a portion of those by utilizing some shifting of funds within the agency, that certainly would be beneficial because of that shortfall of