

they presented the budget they talked about the long hard work and how only those members of the Appropriations Committee can truly understand what is involved in the budget and that those of us who were not a part of the appropriations process really didn't have the appreciation of the long term perspective, the historical look, the in depth understanding of the budget that you just pick up a figure off the floor and those of us who were not members of the committee didn't really appreciate all of the work the Appropriations Committee went into. Now having served on the committee I understand what Senator Clark was telling me then. It is easy enough for one year to grab a budget such as Educational Television and say, they can go without equipment. There is no need for equipment replacement, that can wait. In fact that is what the Appropriations Committee did last year. We said we are not going to put money in for the replacement of equipment. We are going to keep that real, real low because that can wait. But there is some point at which that is going to catch up with you and the realization was that at some time when you are talking about an institution like ETV that it is highly technological, that has a lot of technical equipment, you are going to have to start replacing it. We asked them to develop a schedule of replacement in a businesslike fashion, to contact private business, private television, because certainly we don't want a system that is better or more fancy than private television but at the very least that would seem to be a standard that we can use. An equipment schedule, a depreciation schedule was developed over a ten year period. A request was made for the first year and that seems very, very expensive, but when you are talking about TV cameras and TV tape and those types of things you are talking about very expensive equipment. So we put the money in for the first year. If we don't do it this year then next year we will be facing the problem of not just one year but we will be facing the problem of two years. If we don't do it next year then we will be talking about three years of equipment replacement and so on until you reach the point that our educational television equipment is totally out of date and the equipment is not working and basically we have no programming at all. So, I would think and I would urge Senator Clark to think back to when he was on the Appropriations Committee, that indeed a lot of work has gone into these decisions and that this decision for this year is to catch up for what we didn't do last year and to prevent us from having to do that much more next year. Now, if the issue is programming, if the issue is a specific program with regards to the Legislature, I do not think that this Legislature would be so petty as to cut \$700,000 out of a budget, destroying or disrupting the total program content