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LB 559

merit in expansion. There is always merit in every expansion. It is only the total consequences of all of those programs that becomes difficult. So I would urge that the body would not adopt the amendment. While I have got a couple of more minutes, I might just make a couple of other comments, generally about the budget. There has been suggestions made that because there was a three percent reduction proposed in 1975 that that obviously means there is always three percent too much. Those of you who were here recall that that reduction was not made by the Legislature. It was made of a few selective agencies. It has been suggested there was very little flexibility for the floor. I will tell you of the increased available funds, the committee reserved twenty-one percent of those, nearly twenty-one percent of the increase in this year's budget for floor action. The other eighty percent of the increase then was for continuation budgets, salary adjustments, price of gasoline, utility increases, a whole host of things, and to leave that large a percent of the increase for floor action seems to me to be significant. I am sorry that there are those who feel that they had not adequate time to discuss all the depth of the bill that they would like to have and I do want to repeat the invitation for next year so that these folks will not feel that they have not had the opportunity and that is the Appropriations Committee sponsors evening meetings, as many as anybody wants, to discuss the appropriations in whatever detail they would like. We make the standing offer that from the staff if they want even more detail that that is available and while I certainly understand the conflict that we all have in time, I also have noticed over the years that those who tend to feel that we do not have adequate discussion usually find great difficulty also in getting to those information meetings where that is given. But I never thought that ill of them because I always presumed that they had spent a great deal of time on their own, studying the budget in depth, and, therefore, probably felt adequately prepared and didn't need to come to the meetings. But I do want to suggest that we will have those meetings again next year and we will be glad, at least I will be glad to hold them for as many nights or weekends that is necessary to give as much depth...

SENATOR CLARK: You have thirty seconds, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Fine, it is time I quit anyway. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch, do you want to speak on this returning the bill?