

have. Even though we have more money this year than we have had the last several, we still had to make priority choices. When it came to Workers' Compensation Court they made a good case for us for a backlog of cases being filed, backlog of time drag between the filing petitions and having the cases heard. Senator Hall did point out to you that last year there was a court judge added, an additional support person added, and the statistics that I see in front of us so far do not reflect this year's current activity, doesn't suggest that that has been mitigated at all, the backlog. I vaguely recall at the hearing that they were saying, no, it hasn't been brought down that much. Obviously, they were pleased by the help that we did provide to them last year. So this year they asked for three people to help and they asked for some capital outlay for office renovation. They asked for some replacement of federal fund loss and they asked for some increased cash funds. And what did the committee do? The committee did give them one support person, adding an additional one to the two we gave them last year. We did fund a partial amount of their request for office renovations, about one-third. It does relate to carpet. However, it was not specified as to how they could spend it. They could do it any way they wanted to. We did also replace the federal funds that were lost with General Funds as we so often have to do whether it be voc rehabilitation, whether it be drug abuse crimes, whether it be grants in any area where the federal funds start and they drop off and then we have to pick them up. It's a never ending streak that we go on. Our position isn't that their requests were unmer...unwarranted. Our position is, as a committee, is we went as far as we could go this year. They have a significant increase over last year's budget, over this current year's budget they have a significant increase built in. They had a significant increase built in last year over the previous year. It was a matter of making choices, matter of establishing priorities. We tried to help as many different agencies with their needs and their requests as best we could. We had to say no somewhere. We said no beyond the additional requests that we gave to the Workers' Compensation Court. I don't feel uncomfortable with what we have done. I feel we have tried to do everything we can to help them but at some point we have to say no. What we have done so far this morning is started on our first list of \$500 million and we haven't said no to anything yet. We may not say no to this. I feel we're probably going to get beat over the head on this thing and you're going to vote this on.