

issue which we, I think probably all of us, felt had to be addressed, needed to be addressed and that was an appropriate way to do it and it was a sufficient A bill allocation of funds that would likely take care of it. The other thing I have seen happen, too, that is not a part of this bill is where the agency does not make a request and then someone is asked to introduce the bill to put that amount into the budget and then, in effect, the agency can take the position, and does, that, well, it's not one of their priority items but, yes, they need it, and it's a neat way to circumvent their own priority judgments and I have a feeling it's used that way in submitting a straight budget continuation. And the reason I only bring it up, it's not I'm complaining about the process but the Legislature can very easily be used to it's disadvantage as that grows and one ought to keep in mind that that can be a process that is intentionally used to create some issues where perhaps they shouldn't be used in the fashion that they are. It's not unlike, by the way, when I first became a member of Appropriations Committee there was a process called letter request. And the letter request was all the items that had a sensitive constituency in a particular agency that would not be funded in the Governor's budget in those days and then there properly would be letters sent by the agency to whatever the constituency was saying that this amount was not in the budget and they get ahold of the Appropriations Committee and we would get an avalanche of mail and people and the bottom line of it was it permitted a lower budget submission, knowing full well that the people served would react to the Legislature and inevitably then we ended up with a higher budget number than the Governor's recommendation. It wasn't long before I...in fact, we even changed the law that those requests had to go through the Governor's office so that they couldn't conveniently circumvent the Governor...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...and go directly to the Legislature and usually in those days it was primarily practices by code agencies. So all I am trying to sum up, it's not in opposition to anything but...and certainly not on this issue, but the Legislature ought to keep in mind in future years, or any of us, because I get the requests just like the rest of you do to introduce a budget bill for an expenditure is why didn't the agency put it in their budget? Why did they make it a priority 18 or whatever the number might have been if, in fact, it was really needed and it's a process that does happen and it