

am not sure if that is what is going on here, or if there is really a genuine concern about some of the items in the budget, but I would like to try to explain at least how I view it as a newcomer. I don't have any allegiance particularly to the Appropriations Committee. I didn't have any particular projects that I was trying to get for my district. I didn't twist anybody's arm to try to get any particular project but, as I saw the process unwind, what I saw was a committee consensus that developed after a lot of discussion that said what we really ought to do this year is try to take care of some of those projects that have been in the works for years and years and years, that the various agencies have come to us time and again and said we need these projects but there was no money for, and I saw a consensus develop that, as Senator Warner I think earlier explained, we cannot sustain a budget next year and into the next year and next biennium, if we spend all the money on social programs, for instance. And I noticed in the paper this weekend Senator Hartnett and Senator Korshoj, I think it was, that mentioned that we ought to be spending more on social programs. I'd be the first to say I agree with you. I would rather spend money on social programs but you also have got to have capital construction and you have got to have a budget that you can work with next year and the next year and the next year. So I think what the committee thought was that if we would take care of some of these overdue needs this year with some of this money that we would be ahead in the long run. And I don't know if we were right or not, but I guess what I would like to ask this body is if, indeed, we didn't do it correctly, what should be the appropriations process? Should the Appropriations Committee put in the kinds of hours...

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...and the kinds of time that it does to hear all these agencies and to hear all these capital construction requests? Should we not, if we are going to do it like this and we are going to struggle for hours on end with the different programs and then come to this body and have it all unraveled, should we not designate to the Appropriations Committee ahead of time that capital construction is off limits to the Appropriations Committee and they will deal simply with the agencies and their ongoing budgets. It seems to me that we ought to more clearly define the process if this is the way we