

a long life, approximately 18 years, to get to the point where it was finally approved by the courts. The question was, at what level do we fund it or do we fund it at all? For some reason or another the Governor feels that the program should not be funded. Her veto message sent back the entire amount of money I think that was appropriated less the \$750 that was in the original bill to be vetoed out. The textbook loan program is nothing more, I think, than recognition of the effects and the important position that private schools play in our overall education systems at the elementary and secondary level. The loan program is, I guess it's a gut issue. You're either for it or you're against it. It has been labeled as something that is going to grow to proportions that make, I think, people feel that it should not be in place at all. In my mind it has, I stated earlier when we debated the issue and it was adopted, that I would never see this program growing beyond what...I think at that time I said a half a million dollars would be an outside ballpark figure with regard to where it should be because it should be nothing more than a loan program. It should not be a substitution for the purchase of books for private school students. With that, Mr. President, I would, as I said earlier, it's an up or down issue. It is not one where I think folks are going to cross the line on and I would urge that the veto of the textbook loan program be overridden.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues, this is one particular program that I think is a very, very worthy program and looking at some of the veto overrides I would say it's probably one that should be overridden. Unfortunately, I'm going to take the approach on this particular measure that I hope we'll take on all the veto messages in that we have to hold the line, we can't override any of the vetoes. And it's going to be difficult because there is some very worthy programs that are a part of these...that was a part of the veto messages, but every single dollar that we override is going to be taken out of bills that we passed, future bills. There is still \$28 million that has to be vetoed out. Every dollar that we override is an additional dollar that is going to have to be vetoed out after we adjourn. It's a tough situation for us to be in especially when we have a bill and a particular amount of money that is as worthy as this particular issue is. But I would hope that the body would hang strong, not override any vetoes and hopefully we won't have any problems with balancing the budget. But it is my