

talked with many of the reporters on the floor and back home in my district, they've asked how the budget got to be as ballooned as it has been and I guess quite frankly my response has been that we have shown no self-restraint and more importantly we have shown no ability to set priorities. Because of that, we have advocated our power of setting priorities to the Governor and she has made her decisions and in order to oblige the law that we have, which is to develop a balanced budget, I have decided the only way we can do that is by supporting the Governor's vetoes. As I said, it pains me personally to vote against many of these programs as worthy as they are and as important as some of them are to me personally, but on the other hand, I'm going to take my fair share of the cuts in this process along with many of you. I don't like it but it is a fact that I didn't do a very good job as well as probably many of you in setting priorities early in this session, making commitments to those priorities and then following through with votes for and against particular items. As I said, there is a lot of disappointment and I have sensed in talking with many members a great deal of frustration that has been expressed on the floor over the whole process of the appropriation process on this floor this year. I guess I tend to agree with some of the complaints and some of the finger pointing that has gone on about who controls the ability to set priorities in this Legislature whether it is nine members of the Appropriations Committee and what happens to the other 40 members of the body who have very little to say about the budget. But regards to that fact I guess I feel uncomfortable criticizing the process until I have some form of a solution to offer to the body. So I will not attempt to try and do that but only to say that we as individuals are as much to blame for the problem that exists with the budget as anyone and I think, as I have tried to say to some of the members, I'm trying to be responsible in voting no and in some cases even when I really want to vote yes, and this is certainly the case in this regard. George brings to us a good idea, a problem that will exist in this state this summer, but unfortunately, as I see it, it is not going to fit for this year's fiscal budget process. So I will be voting against this veto message, or override as well as almost all of the remaining ones. In fact, I would not be all that reluctant to adjourn sine die at this very moment. But I realize that there are many who...

PRESIDENT: One minute.