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elected for office we are in a political set of circumstances, and everything we do is political. Sometimes it becomes not only political, but partisan in addition. And the Legislature has put itself in a position, regardless of who is governor, to be whipsawed in a very partisan fashion. It is the wimp of the three branches of government, has always been so, and there have been enough people in this body to try to keep it that way, because when there is a "Repelican" in the "Repelicans" want to be sure that theirs has the upper hand. When a demagogue is in, the demagogues want to keep it in such a way that theirs will have the upper hand. That's why you all are fortunate to have somebody like me. Now I've kind of sampled the fruit of both of those parties. (Laughter.) And as bad as the fruit tastes, I don't know why they use the term party to describe either one of them. My concept of party is something that is enjoyable. But nevertheless, I have done what I could in this Legislature, although being often rebuked and scorned by my colleagues, treated sometimes in ways that I feel are racist and very unfair, treated in a way that nobody else on this floor has been treated. I, nevertheless, have pushed for programs that would benefit the senators individually and the Legislature as an institution. The per diem that Senator Barrett is talking about would not be possible, had I not fought for it and whipsawed the Attorney General, as I had to do, to even get it into court and assist in that matter. I have fought hard for us to get decent furnishings in our office so you don't have a kitchen dinette chair over here, an overstuffed chair there that's bursting at the seams, a desk that has all kinds of projections on it that will tear people's clothing, mismatched, like something from the Goodwill, just thrown together. I've been opposed to that and have, for years discussed it. And the space that every senator ought to have, because I've never felt that because somebody is new here they should be given less in the way of accoutrements than those who have been here a long time, because everybody, once they are elected, should be on a par with everybody else here. And those are things that I have fought for that didn't redound directly to my benefit, because I can get what I want, within reason. Now we come to the Legislature's prerogatives. And we have often, more often than not yielded to whatever it was that the Governor has wanted, whoever the Governor has been. Then we whine and we whimper because governors will make us look like a bunch of milquetoast people with oatmeal for spines, weak, indecisive, divided and willing to abdicate our responsibility and give the final word, on matters that originate with us, over to the Governor who generally is hostile