

requests come up through the Legislature and to the Governor. By and large with that exception, both at the state college level and at the university level, requests for expansion are almost always program specific and campus specific. Occasionally, there are requests for equipment that are across the board. But if you...during the course of a budget hearing almost inevitably there is an explanation made as to generally those areas where that will be used. In addition, I have another concern, and that is the system we have now is at least a very open system. Amendments that I think almost all of you are...will recall that most of the amendments, not all, but most of the amendments that are offered on the floor, just as the requests that are made by the institutions, are program specific and project specific, and, in fact, we will be dealing with some motions already on the bill this year, which are program specific and amount specific and campus specific. With the adoption of this amendment, that type of action on the part of the Legislature could only be done for informational purposes and not particularly binding, as some members of the Legislature might like to see. But neither do I look at a consolidated budget as some magic answer to avoid...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...mischief. I am very well acquainted with an individual who has the principal job in the state higher education system, with their statewide board that, in fact, does have the consolidated budget proposal. Recently I was visiting with him on another matter, nothing to do with this, and I just casually asked what he had been doing that day. And his response was, well, he had been meeting with the Governor and, I believe as he said, selective legislators, or something to that effect, explaining how they propo...he was proposing to distribute the consolidated budget by campus prior to the time that the Governor or the Legislature had enacted, because obviously there was not going to be the votes to make the distribution, or the Governor was not going to sign the bill unless they had some clue as to how those monies were going to be allocated. So what you're proposing by it in the consolidated budget, in a political sense, is very likely that you pushed the decisions somewhere outside of the public view rather than the system we have now which certainly can be misused. But I believe firmly that the best way you prevent misuse of a system is to make sure that that system is as open to the public, through the media, as you possibly can have it.