

this amount of money to be paid to our employees. He put in his veto message that there is money being reappropriated to the Legislative Council, and from that could come enough money to cover this increase. That is not strictly accurate. He talks about it not being good public policy to do this for our employees. How good a public policy is it, and I didn't oppose it, I don't think I voted for it, for us to pass a specific bill relative to nepotism just to bail out the Governor for one of his employees. And I told the Governor that when I talked to him about this. I said, you persuaded the Legislature to pass a bill to benefit one of your employees, and the Legislature did it, then you kick the Legislature in the teeth in this fashion. The courts do it, the Governor does it, everybody makes political hay off the Legislature, yet they're in a position to do the very thing they condemn us for trying to do for ours. And where does the problem come? Because we tried to establish some kind of pay system, some kind of classification of employees. That was done some years ago. And what was valid several years ago no longer fits the situation now. Under the leadership of Senator Warner, who is head of the Executive Board, it has already been established that we will have a study during the interim of the entire employee classification and pay system for legislative employees. If we override the Governor, that amount that we're going to restore is not going to do anything of significance toward increasing state expenditures. What it will do is put us in a position to continue treating our employees as we have treated them in the past, to continue treating them as we have treated them in the past. The Governor is not in a position where he has to tell people working for him, well, you were made to believe you're going to get this amount, now you're not going to get it. That's not going to happen in his office, or the office of any other constitutional officer who has chosen not to fire employees, but it's supposed to happen in ours. We control the purse strings. We can go a great way toward obtaining some consideration for the Legislature as a co-equal branch of government. We could, by statute, impose on all these constitutional officers the same thing that we have imposed on ourselves, but we have not done it. Perhaps had there been an anticipation of what people say is a tight fiscal condition, we may have had time to just throw together some kind of ad hoc program which would change our employee pay system to enable us to do this. That was not done. A study is to be undertaken. This raise would be just for one year, then we would abide by whatever the results of the study that is to be undertaken will produce. They are our employees,