

the floor we just show what our values are and I'm willing to wear mine on my sleeve and not only say it in the corridors and in the corners of offices, but on this floor by way of the amendments that I offer and the discussion that I engage in. This budget process does not belong to the Appropriations Committee nor to any member of it and I am going to use my time as I see fit and my time includes the right to offer amendments and I told you this is the approach that I was going to take. We're not allowed to divide the question when it comes to this motion offered by the Appropriations Committee. We all know, even if we were born yesterday, that political decisions were reached in putting this motion together and there are some people who will fight to the death for everything in here and talk about what a high priority it is today for this purpose, but at another time when it has to stand alone on its own there is an entirely different approach. My memory spans more than one day and I look at more than what we'll say this day, but I intend to have my say on this and every other item that comes before us today that I feel the need to discuss. I don't think it is a wise thing to have a package of this kind adopted when by so doing it just about automatically dooms any other consideration that could be given for items that some of us deem more important than the things contained on this sheet. I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a general question just before we vote.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, you and I had a number of back and forths but now I want to ask a very focused and precise question. Is it...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the position of the Appropriations Committee that what they put in this package has a higher priority in the sense of being of more value to the citizens at large than any other thing that they did not include?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, yes, to the degree it is as of today, considering where we're at in the budget process and where we're at in the session, all things considered, the answer has to be yes, not that it won't change last week and next week and next year.