

weight around. He's got to operate in a more circumspect fashion cooperatively with the Legislature, and I want to emphasize that I find that this year my relationships with the leadership are *better* than they were last year. They have been much closer. There's been a freer interchange with less reservation between the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and the other majority party leaders and me than ever before. I consider that much of the legislation could not have passed had we not worked together, and I think that we did play a very effective role, behind-the-scenes as it were, in the passage of much of this legislation. I am not trying to preempt or take away any credit from the Legislature. They did a magnificent job and I am very proud of the work that they did, but I think that maybe the people in my office who worked during a long, arduous session that looked like it was going to get off the track in the middle of it — you remember how worried you were, gentlemen, about how things were going, that nothing was going to be accomplished. I think the work of my staff, and I commend them very highly for what they did, was most effective in restoring a cooperative atmosphere that allowed the passage of this legislation. So I just feel very good about the whole thing. Sort of bad about the fact that the Governor's staff and the Governor have been relegated to a less effective role in the judgment of some than I think they justify, but the result is good and I am satisfied with that.

Q. Governor, are you unhappy about any legislation that did pass?

A. Well, I haven't had a chance to really look at all the legislation and, of course, I'm certain it will happen this time, as it always does, that there will be people against certain bills who will make known to me reasons for their opposition which may be valid. So I don't want to comment until I have a chance to appraise the objections and to hear from those who are concerned about bills that went through, and have a chance on my own initiative to review the bills that I might not have been following as closely as some.

Q. Governor, what about the legislative suggestion that you no longer try to end programs by withholding funds?

A. Well, I haven't done that really. I think I have funded everything the Legislature passed. I indicated at the very beginning that I would do that, and I believe if you talk with the leadership, both majority and minority, that they would tell you that I have played down the middle of the line with them, that I haven't told them anything — that I haven't changed or deviated from what I said I was going to do, and I just don't think that's a legitimate criticism.