

April 4, 1975

if I may. If not, I would substitute Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT: Could you declare, please, Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY: Dick is busy getting an order over here. I will talk with...Senator Warner, I would like to ask you to tell us what was the dollar amount of the last biennium budget that was made?

SENATOR WARNER: Dollar amount.

SENATOR KELLY: Just make it approximately. Was it a hundred million dollars? One hundred and fifty million?

SENATOR WARNER: Total.

SENATOR KELLY: Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: It runs in my mind that the biennial budget was to all funds, and Senator Marvel can answer quicker, but it runs in my mind the request was something in excess of three quarter of a billion...million but I don't remember the exact dollar amount any more. I am sorry. That is 69-70, you mean.

SENATOR KELLY: Let me ask the question this way, then. What I am trying to determine is that there has been a tremendous increase in the flow of cash through this state government since we went into the broadened tax base which all involves in this same period when we changed from biennial sessions to the broadened tax base and it would appear to me that, if we go to a biennial budget at this time, that biennial budget is going to be up there to a billion dollars and I would suggest that probably the last biennium budget that was set was probably someplace in the neighborhood of two hundred million. If this relationship has any validity, it would appear to me that the problem that we are experiencing in our budget process is one strictly of magnitude of state government and has nothing to do with which month or which year we set that budget or which year we make the decisions or whether we make them one year or make them two years. It is the dollar amount and the activities and services put out by government and the collecting of taxes at the state level that we rebate to the political subdivisions and the schools and whatnot and I believe that going to biennial budgeting would increase our problem. It would not decrease it. That would be my statement, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, are you ready to close debate by way of reply.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first I want to emphasize that while there has been quite a bit of discussion about the annual or bi-annual meeting of the Legislature, that is not the purpose of offering the amendment. It is not a back door approach to go back to biennial sessions. If I had wanted to do that, I would have introduced a constitutional amendment to do so. What I do believe is that a better planning can be done by looking further ahead than just 12 months and it is not too unusual. As a matter of fact as I recall, the