

January 5, 1984

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PRESIDENT: Could we have the attention of the membership, please. (Gavel.) The Clerk will read the resolution.

CLERK: ...is a resolution offered by Senators DeCamp and Howard Peterson as found on page 151 of the Journal. It would read as follows: (Read.) Again, Mr. President, the resolution is on page 151 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, yesterday when this resolution was put in some members of the press came to me and they said, is this a gimmick or is this just a partisan plot or is this a deal to trap the Governor? Is it a deal for you to run for the U.S. Senate? Is it, as Senator Newell would say, a fun and games PR thing? And my answer to that is, those very things can be said and are probably true about every single issue that comes before this Legislature. And so rather than debate those particular things, let's just say, yes, they are all partially true on everything we do. Now let's go to whether the proposal itself has any merit at all and precisely what it is. And I would submit this specific proposal has at least five or six compelling reasons for it and it does have merit. First of all, this is the first time in the modern history of the state when this body has taken over, by law, the responsibility for setting and establishing the tax rates. It is now us. That may be right, that may be wrong, that may be good, that may be bad. I was one of the ones that led the effort to do that. I believe I have a responsibility as at least one individual to live up to what I proclaimed then, if we are going to take the responsibility, face up to it and handle it. And I guess I think that the first thing that makes sense with this responsibility is for us to say, here is the table, here is how much food is going to be available. Now, you, Senator Warner, and your good committee, and you, Mr. Governor, you prepare your dinner based upon what we have made available. We are telling you in advance before we ever pass or sponsor or have one bill up that costs any money, we are telling you what we have available and what we want. And what we want is a dramatic and significant reduction in the taxes of the

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