

be...I'm supposed to talk louder. I'm sorry. Can everybody hear me now, for those that want to hear? But in any case, yes, unfortunately, Harry said. But in any case it is important for us to know. It is pretty basic stuff. You know we are not really the bosses. We are the legislative end of this state government. The Governor and others administratively are supposed to put together how the system works. So really I would...maybe a basic question about who really negotiates. Is it the Legislature? But yet...I don't think so, but yet the Legislature is involved with having to make a decision now, prematurely, to cut off negotiations with employees and we really don't know for sure why because we're not quite sure what the administration, maybe what the Appropriations Committee, or what anybody else is doing regarding the 3 percent salary increase or any of the other potential benefits or problems that may exist. We don't really know and we should.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay. If we advance the bill, just thinking out loud here, it would be possible I suppose then to keep the CIR language and provide no salary increase, or something less than 3 percent. Is that, that is a possibility, isn't it.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, sir, Senator DeCamp, if you are talking to me, yes, that possibility does exist.

SENATOR DECAMP: Hmmm, hmmm.

SENATOR LYNCH: Because we're not quite sure. I'm sure there are people, maybe even my good friend to the right, who are looking towards any kind of method that could be developed to maybe cut out the 3 percent salary increase in others. So, yes, this is a vehicle. But it would be a vehicle in any case. We have to get back to the original concept of a person's right to negotiate, and the amendment simply involving the CIR was an interesting one, simply putting it off for awhile.

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, I guess I'm going to vote against sending it back to committee, and probably even vote to advance it with the theory in mind that maybe at some later date it wouldn't be the worst thing in the world to keep the CIR language and make other modifications in the salary