

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise to oppose the committee amendments, certainly for the reasons that Senator Warner has pointed out and that is it would be unfortunate to work under some mistaken assumption that we could have some money to spend and spend it and then find out we don't have it. But I am going to vote to leave this bill in its present form rather than adopting committee amendments or...and certainly a second choice would be what Senator Warner is proposing. But my preference for leaving it where it is, I think is...perhaps on first glance doesn't make a lot of sense because sitting on the Appropriations Committee as I do, I am offering to give up, I think at least to some extent, some of my power and some of my discretion on that committee to allocate general fund money. But I think it is important that this body commit itself to some priorities, and I haven't heard anybody stand up and argue that these three priorities are not worthy of pursuing in the future of this state and I have a feeling that sometimes we miss some opportunities in the state because we don't set priorities. Then when it comes down to the last minute of finalizing the budget, some of the things that we find to be most important to the future of the state somehow get lost in the shuffle. I think this is an ideal opportunity to take some...granted some funds that we don't know whether we are going to have to work with or not but to make a definite statement as a body that we consider these priorities and they are important enough to place these funds behind in the event that we get them. So I am going to oppose the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lundy.

SENATOR LUNDY: Mr. President and members of the body, I just wonder if we aren't mixing up a lot of things here at the moment with amendments and amendments and a suggestion has been made previously that maybe it would be a good idea to bracket this bill until January. And I favor this. I don't know why this wouldn't work out. If money does come toward the end of the year, the calendar year in October, November, December, we don't know what Congress is going to do for sure, they have got more amendments than we have at the moment, and I just wonder if it wouldn't be a good idea to sit on this thing until January and then consider it at