

economy and what it is going to do in the next couple of years either. I think we need to be flexible. We need to understand that we are making commitments and that we are beginning the process. I do not think we need the Warner amendment to commit ourselves to a certain 1.5 percent at this point in time. I would oppose the Warner amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris, do you wish to speak a second time? Senator Scofield. May we have order in the Chamber, please. We have too much conversation. I am afraid we are missing what the speaker is saying. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Warner's amendment. I haven't been on the Appropriations Committee very long, but I can tell you that when we have...we have had a very difficult time this year trying to live within a budget and accommodate some commitments that were made last year that people talked about, well, we will get the bill through and then next year we will fund it. That is a very difficult task and that seems to me what we are embarking upon here, and I believe it would be wise to heed Senator Warner's advice. I find Senator Hoagland's comments about how they do it at the federal level rather amusing. I don't think any of us want to follow the wonderful model that the federal government has set for us lately on fiscal responsibility. I suspect that had the federal government proceeded along the lines that Nebraska has and kept themselves from going into debt in the first place, they wouldn't be in the trouble they are. But I would suggest that we certainly don't want to obligate ourselves to something like what we are getting into here without and then say, well, we will worry about how to pay for this in the future. I think that is fiscally irresponsible and I urge you to accept Senator Warner's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak again at this time? The question has been asked for. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is, shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion is to cease debate on the discussion of the Warner amendment to LB 662. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote. Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.