

reduction will enable the Legislature to approve an appropriation without a general tax increase, without a general tax increase, but we will have a 3 percent reserve. If we then later on approve some additional appropriation reductions, which Senator Beutler will carry, we can have a higher reserve and no general tax increase. Ed Howard from the Associated Press has been taking a poll of us saying to each one of us, how many here want to support a tax increase? And I asked Ed what he discovered. He said, well, virtually nobody wants a tax increase. Well, how many of us think that to avoid the tax increase we must cut the general fund budget \$30 million? Well, virtually everybody says to avoid a tax increase we must cut the general fund budget \$30 million. And then finally, according to the poll, how many think it can be done? And everybody says, well, it can't be done. It cannot be done. I tell you it can be done and it is done only by our doing of it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Nobody else does it. Nobody else does it. We are the ones that control the budget. We have to do it. We have to have the will, the staying power, the leadership, the courage and the integrity to do it. This is the first beginning in a reduction of the general fund budget. Senator Warner says it is wrong to raid the infrastructure to balance the budget. He suggests that to allow roads to deteriorate is wrong. This change does not allow roads to deteriorate. If we want to add to construction costs, we may do that through an amendment and it will be borne by the user fee basis. This change does not allow the roads to deteriorate. I know each of you have been lobbied extensively on this issue. I say to you, there comes a time when you need to make necessary governmental change for greater efficiency, greater utilization of the tax dollars and this is one of those times. It's done by a majority of our sister states exactly as I am suggesting. I ask you to support this change. Let's have a new beginning.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Vard Johnson amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Oh, Senator DeCamp has asked for a roll call in reverse order. So we'll vote that way. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken as found on page 2338 of the Legislative Journal.) 17 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.