

doing a portion of that in a more selective kind of way, but, nonetheless, I think that rather than not do it at all, that this is preferable that what Senator DeCamp is suggesting to you is preferable to raising taxes. What he is suggesting to you though is a 3 percent increase and a 3 percent increase is \$24 million. I don't think that we need \$24 million in order to avoid a tax increase. If you reduce this to 2 percent, and that's what I'm suggesting that you do with this amendment, that would raise \$14 million. With that \$14 million cut added onto what the Appropriations Committee cut, I think that the figures indicate that you could avoid a tax increase and you could have a reserve of between 3.5 and 4 percent. Now maybe you want a bigger reserve and maybe you want to make bigger cuts or maybe you don't want quite that much of a reserve, but if you adopted this amendment and made it 2 percent and adopted a 2 percent cut, you will have succeeded in avoiding a tax increase for this year. Now I only offer this to you because I think that Senator DeCamp's 3 percent is unrealistic. I think that's too much. I think 2 percent is appropriate. I think you can do that and avoid the tax increase. And if you do it, then you'll be in a position where you can look at the pros and cons of some of those smaller appropriations and cuts such as ADC and see if you want to add them back in. You know, maybe as a matter of process what we need to do is make one bold stroke and cut the budget and then deal item by item with those things that people want to add back in or attempt to add back in rather than struggling small cut by small cut. Well, I'm prepared to do it either way, but I think that at least if you're going to adopt Senator DeCamp's method that it makes some sense to reduce the 3 percent to 2 percent because that still avoids the tax cut.

PRESIDENT: The Beutler amendment to the amendment. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, let's talk about the state employees' salaries first. Under this amendment and/or the other amendment the cut is decided within the department so those folks who are on the high end can give up some of their high end so that the folks in the middle, on the lower end can get their full increase. We've had statements made against the amendment, the 2 percent and/or the 3 percent, that you have to have planned budgeting and that this isn't the way to do it. Well, that