

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, since we have decided to put together a budget in a little different way than customarily is done and we have adopted an approach or at least made a step in that direction in the form of across the board cuts, I think it would be safe to say that that is what we're going to do this afternoon in terms of trying to arrive at some additional cuts. I think the way to start is by putting everybody in jail, so to speak, then letting each inmate justify why he or she should be excused. So I think we should start off with an across the board cut, period. Then those programs, those agencies that are deemed to be worthy of exemption or exclusion from this cut can have their advocates present the arguments to the Legislature. I can't say that some of these exclusions that Senator DeCamp has listed are more worthy of being excluded than some of the ones that have not been. Maybe it's politically more feasible to start with these, but I look at all these programs the way I do people who commit homicide and those who get the death penalty. An infinitesimally small percentage of those eligible for the death penalty actually receive the sentence and an even smaller percentage have it actually carried out on them. And those who actually die have committed crimes which cannot be distinguished from the crimes committed by those who do not suffer that punishment. So when we come to the proposition that we're dealing with today we have reversed that procedure and said the vast majority will fall under the axe, but a few are to be exempted and nothing has been offered on any one of these programs to distinguish it as far as worthiness from those that are to suffer the cut. So I'm saying instead of going at it two ways, one, to obtain exclusion for some programs and the second prong to try to eliminate some of these as Senator DeCamp's amendment contains, we should simplify this process so it is clear what we're doing and start with no exemptions or exclusions. So that's what my amendment would do and I hope you will adopt it.

PRESIDENT: Some lights were on from last debate. Senator Hoagland, do you wish to speak?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I would rise to oppose the Chambers amendment and suggest that this body adopt the DeCamp amendment as it is now amended by Senator Beutler's amendment. I think in these kinds of