

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'm very serious about the across the board cut. It is something that has been tried in the past, and it has been the only way to make major cuts, other than when you have an Appropriations Committee come in with an agreed upon package. So starting from that premise then I have to deal with Senator Chambers' amendment. As I understand Senator Chambers' amendment, it would make across the board cuts in some items I excluded, items I excluded and explained to you. Those exclusions are based upon constitutional matters and previous history. So legislative salaries, that is \$4,800 in the Constitution, constitutional officer, same thing, miscellaneous claims, either the amount is or isn't a fixed amount. Capital construction. You've got a contract, you've done certain things, you don't cut off the corner of the building, such as J.J. tried one time. Then I did additional exclusions that have traditionally been done when we did across the boards, and those are for services where the state has a specific responsibility to provide services to individuals, the deaf, the visually handicapped, the mentally retarded, the blind, the mental health, the Beatrice, the veterans home, and so on. Okay, then I excluded, as you have to to make this function if you are going to do it, state claims, whatever the final amount of the state claims are. You can't say, George, you bought a claim for \$200, now we take it back. It just doesn't work in the process. Employees' retirement, that is a fixed amount you have to put in. If you don't put it in, all you do is have to put it in the next year. So there was a basis for doing exactly what I did. In other words there is history and it works this way if you are going to do it. Now if you want to just jumbo up the thing and make it unworkable, I guess you'd adopt this amendment. The only thing I think you can really say that I added, but it's always been in the past added too, is state operations. That is a \$35 million ticket item that I left in the existing budget. I didn't tamper with it. The reason I did that was because when I've tried across the board cuts in the past Senator Warner always gets up and explains why state operations really does nothing more than shift it to another year and louses things up. So what I am dealing with then is a \$703 million budget, \$702 million budget. That is what we are making the across the board. If you decide you want to make the across the board then I think you have to do it this way to make it work. Again, I'll repeat, I'm not saying it is wise or