

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the DeCamp amendment to this amendment. It seems to me that we do have some difficult economic times. But for us, as a state, to say that our employees are going to be the ones that are going to have to pay part of the cost of this difficult time that we are in is unfair. I suspect that part of the impetus from this is that there are those folks representing some other interests back of the glass doors that don't want it 2 percent, and really don't want 1 percent either, but will have a trade-off in order to get the 1 percent. It seems to me that that is somewhat unfair, particularly when a number of those entities, and we can talk about state aid if you wanted to, you can talk about aid to local governments and I know there are those people who have stood up on this floor and say, well, if we would make a 2 percent cut, that means property taxes are going to go up. Well, that is not necessarily true. Some of those entities of local government could do the same thing we are having to do. But it seems unfair to me that we would say to our state employees that we are not going to give you an increase in your salary until January of next year when a lot of the schools in the state and a lot of the other employees of political subdivisions are getting a considerably larger increase than that. I think we've done this before. We've played this game before. I don't think that we ought to play it again. I would encourage you to reject the DeCamp amendment and to adopt the 2 percent cut as the amendment is at the present time. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, do you wish to speak on the amendment, this amendment to the main amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. President and members, I would oppose the DeCamp substitute amendment. I would oppose the DeCamp amendment in the first place and basically tell you that I think everybody's discussion has been very fruitful in terms of bearing out the different attitudes on the budget at this point. But I think, frankly, everybody, from what I can tell, has a different perspective that is in error in different ways. For instance Senator Lamb, who I thought gave an excellent speech and I really enjoyed it about us new conservatives, talking about us being interested in the cut, said we should not cut, what we should do is send the budget over to the Governor and have the Governor find the \$30 million, he should be the leader