

synchronized movement that one individual has. So that is not going to win. The 2 percent cut that Senator DeCamp is talking about, instead of sending it over to the Governor to make the cut and the Governor's Office, send it over to the agencies and the local subdivisions and say, you make the cuts. Again we don't make the cuts, they do. We cut 2 percent from their budget and say we aren't going to give you enough money to get the job done. You find a way to get the job done, so you make the cut. Again we are passing on the responsibility to make the decisions. I think that is a mistake, that is why I oppose the 2 percent. That is why I would also oppose the 1 percent and the salary cut. I would not support any decrease in the state employees' salaries, in whatever form it took. Now whose real responsibility is it at this point to do the budget cutting? It should be the Legislature. We are the keepers of the purse-string. We are the ones that are supposed to be responsible. Always that is our key, number one obligation, the purse-strings of the state, the budget of the state. Every year we get into the same situation where we want somebody else to make those decisions. But it is only natural because we can all agree, to the tune of 15 to 20 votes, to cut this or to cut that. But it is to get 25 votes that we always fall short. And it happens every year, and we understand that. So we end up with a situation where it is logical, as a last resort, that we look elsewhere to find the decisions to be made. That is because cutting is painful, it is difficult. And 15 or 20 of us can agree to cut here, but that means that some of us won't want to cut there, and as a result we end up never getting a consensus of 25 votes on cuts. It is just nigh impossible, and...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...Senator DeCamp has said that. I would agree with him. It has been obvious again this year. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try, we shouldn't make the effort, we shouldn't make selective cuts where possible and where not possible, at least we have to make that effort to try and set some priorities for the State of Nebraska. So I urge you to reject this amendment from Senator DeCamp. Again, I emphasize to you that the state employee, 3 percent salary increase is not adequate as it is. To cut that further or delay it further is not the answer. A 1 percent or a 2 percent budget across the board cut is not a wise way to deal with the budget. I'd ask you to reject that as