

Senator Warner, and I can understand their constituency, they are from Lincoln and, of course, this is where most employees are based, so they would be particularly aware of the sensitivity of a cut or some amendment impacting state employees. And I certainly understand that. At the same time, many of you...many of you voted against an across-the-board cut which would have left employees with a 3 percent increase but made them internally...internally have to make some reductions, some adjustments, maybe not a new hiring. That was rejected. We are talking about...a number of you said, well, we can do individual things. I am picking the most blatant in terms of visible individual thing that amounts to a lot of dollars that is a permanent, not just a pass forward thing, a permanent and actual dollar cut. It does leave the state employees with a 1.5 percent increase. If you think that is not enough, obviously you should be voting against the amendment. But I am trying to bring to a head whether you can do individual nickel and dime or even dollar and hundred dollar and million dollar cuts. I am not sure you can. And if you can't, then let's bring this thing to a halt and get the bill over to the Governor and find out where we are. This is your chance to prove whether you want to do individual cuts. And, originally, I guess I thought, I thought the Governor was supporting this. Now from reading the papers, at least, I find out he isn't, at the same time I read a later edition that said he keeps all options open. So whatever the latest position, I don't know. But I would urge you to adopt this and find out whether you want to actually make additional cuts. This is your chance. As for Senator Warner's other proposal that then we impose the same standard on local government, that seems to be the single best idea of the entire session even though that is not the issue here, he says if you are going to do this, you should propose that additional amendment. Senator Warner, my promise to you is if by a fluke of fate, or whatever, this would pass, I would be the first one agreeing with you to propose that identical amendment for local government in terms of limiting them on their state aid unless they also use similar proposals or similar limitations on their salary proposal. So I urge you to adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the DeCamp amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.