

them either with vengeance in mind or else out of ignorance and oftentimes we, as Senator Warner has pointed out, do more damage than we possibly recognize. That is why I supported an across-the-board cut. There isn't...and there are a lot of inequities in that kind of an operation, but we have done it before and it has been successful for this reason, that the individual who is out there recognizes that at least he was treated...or his agency was treated equitably insofar as that cut is concerned. It may not be fair. The responsibilities may be different. The necessities and the needs are different, but at least that individual agency wasn't singled out for the axe, and others escaped. We all have our pets. We all have our favorites and I think that has been evident here over the years. But I think that the Appropriation Committee has to either make those selective cuts or else we have to approach it across the board. I voted for an across-the-board cut once. I will do it again. I think it is evident, Senator Hefner has said it here, this Legislature does not want to increase taxes. I go back to the farm every night. I visit with people at home morning and evening. I get the same message that many of you get and I can understand Senator Warner's frustration and I understand the frustration of the committee members when we pick up the paper and see where a local subdivision gives their employees 5, 5.5, 6, 6.5 percent raises, we funnel money back there which is very rarely acknowledged and then ask the state employees to take a lesser wage increase. But the process always works this way. We always get into this kind of a situation. Now it is more serious now because we are in a time of recession or depression. I consider it a depression. But I want to point out again and I think that John DeCamp is trying to do it and I think we recognize it, that when it comes right down to that selective cut, the 40 of us who have not had the benefit of six months of negotiations and six months of information are in no position, we are not in a position to make those cuts very wisely. The only thing we can do if you don't make those cuts, is to take it off across the board and I am sure in your wisdom and your experience that is not really satisfactory either because you probably have good reasons why certain agencies should not have the same kind of cut the rest of them have. But I have been here 17 years and with the exception of Senator Warner, that is longer than anyone else, and I think I know a little bit about the process and I do not consider myself experienced enough to go into that budget with a scalpel and try to weed