

have a lot of confidence in Larry Bare and I say that Larry Bare and the Governor can get into an office and in two hours, two hours they can come up with selective cuts. They don't have to have 25 votes. They only have to have one vote, the vote of the Governor, send it back here with those selective cuts which are done on a rational basis and we'll not override. I'm sure we will not override any of those line item vetoes. Let's do this budget cutting in a rational manner, not across the board cuts, they don't make sense. I ask you to defeat the Beutler motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, then Senator Vickers.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, about as reluctantly as I have done anything in this body, I stand to ask you to support the two percent across the board cut. We're obviously in a situation where absolutely none of our decisions that we make are going to be good ones, every decision. We're now faced with the choice of which of the proposals that lay out there is the least offensive. I felt that yesterday's package cuts of \$10 million was the least offensive. Sixteen of my colleagues agreed with me, a majority did not. That is no longer a viable option. I would probably also feel that another recommendation from the Appropriations Committee to cut an additional 10 to \$15 million would be preferable to this. I don't see that forthcoming. We're left with two options. Those options are this across the board cut or a tax increase. As repulsive as across the board cuts are, to me it is preferable to a tax increase at this time given the state of economy in our state. I disagree with one of the things Senator Beutler said. Senator Beutler said, this is our last chance to cut. I think this might well be our last chance to pass a budget this year without extending the session. I know there's a lot of feeling that we need to hurry up, vote on this, then vote on the budget and get it across, that somehow we're going to just as soon as this is over, we're all going to fold our tent and immediately vote to advance this budget over to the Governor's Office. I frankly am not going to do that. I was one of the signatories to the letter yesterday. There appears to be some feeling from those who were opposed to this letter that it's just a bunch of political posturing, that we weren't really serious, that we had signed our letter to get a little bit of publicity in the newspaper, but now we're going to fold our tents and go back into playing the game as