

First of all, let me remind you that we will be exasperating our problems for next year if we adopt the DeCamp amendment because of that four percent base. But even more importantly it seems to me, it's never easy and it is very painful to have to delve into the budget and to cut the budget because you know that it is going to affect some of the services, it's going to affect some of the things that many of us hold very dear and Senator Nelson just alluded to that. But it just somehow seems totally inherently unfair to take the state employees whom this body has not really been overly generous with the last several years anyhow because of our economic conditions and say, you know, we've got this problem, we're going to make the cuts off the backs of our state employees. I would remind you that government, it seems to me, works exactly backwards from what private business does. When I start hurting in my business I'm the one that hurts, I'm the one that hurts first. Those employees that I may have that are necessary as a part of that business in order to hopefully generate the funds to keep that business going, you try to keep those employees out there on the job working. You try to keep them providing the income to that business and if you get in a situation where you have to make some decisions you may even have to lay off some of them, but you try to keep the ones that you've still got happy and working. It seems to me that government works exactly the other way around and I think that's unfortunate. So it's, I think, a situation where in our efforts to reduce the budget, in our efforts to hold down the tax increases, we are about to put in place a situation whereby a lot of those services that many of us feel should still be provided will probably not be provided very well or may not be provided at all simply because we're going to have some employees that either are not going to be there or are not going to have their hearts in it as a result of the treatments from this body and I think that's unfortunate and I don't think we ought to do it. I'd also like to remind you that this will be a reduction in the cut. This will be a reduction in the amount that the original motion up there envisions as far as a cut from the budget. We need to understand that. You need to recognize that. You could adopt this and still be in a situation as Senator Beutler pointed out where a tax increase would still be necessary. I urge you to reject the DeCamp amendment.

PRESIDENT MCGINLEY PRESIDING