

proved him wrong on that first prediction that he made. We did lower taxes. This year we have the opportunity if we hold tight and hold firm to prove him wrong on the other half. We do not have to raise taxes if we vote for this motion. Right now we have a lot of pressure on us and it's about to happen. We're about to vote to cut enough money out of this budget so taxes will not be raised and we're doing that in the face of powerful opposition. We have partisan opponents to this measure who for some reason or another think it's politically responsible and prudent to let the Governor do it. I don't think it's prudent to do that, whether it's politically popular or not I don't know. It's not prudent to do that. We have a lobby full of some of the most powerful lobby groups in this state saying don't vote on this. But we're on the verge of passing a two percent cut to the budget. As Senator DeCamp said the other day, the largest single cut ever made by a legislative body, and if we can suspend the rules and get to an up or a down vote on this before lunch, it will happen. If we don't, the lobby will have that additional power to operate, additional sweet little deals will be cut. Senators who know this is the right thing to do, the responsible thing to do will have little carrots dangled in front of their face. They will find some reason for switching and the moment will be lost. This is the moment and it has to be done now. That is why I am offering this amendment. I know it takes 30 votes. I know those of you who still think we need some additional changes in the budget will have your opportunity. This merely shuts off future debate on the Beutler amendment itself and allows us an up or a down vote on that motion. Please...it's a responsible thing to do, vote in favor of this suspension of the rules.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers, on the motion to suspend the rules and move immediately. Do you wish to speak? All right. Senator Morehead. Senator Wesely. Senator Schmit, this is the motion to suspend the rules to move immediately to vote.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the body, I would support the motion. There has been a lot of argument here and a lot of debate. As Senator Withem has pointed out there will be opportunity for additional debate on the main bill. I believe we ought to know where we're at. I just guess...I really feel real bad about what we are doing here, but I don't know any other alternative that I think is