

May 22, 1985

worked from twelve o'clock until we came back here at one-thirty, and we did not get to the point do we want to do this and have a budget figure in mind. It didn't mean at all that we aren't willing to. We just didn't discuss it as a group. Senator Warner, as Chairman, can't presume to speak for us. My guess would be if we would meet we would be willing to bring a figure to you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator Hannibal, I would consider it, for example, a breach of faith if you came back to the Legislature with a \$5 or \$6 million package. Would you consider it also a breach of faith?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I could certainly see that argument, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You would agree?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Well, since we didn't have a dollar amount to start with I can't speak for the committee, but I could certainly understand your argument.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Then I would ask again, to the members of the committee, what is the committee's intent? Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Senator Beutler, first of all to respond to your question, and I'm only speaking for myself, not for the committee, I sense, from the letter we received and from the statement made on the floor, that there is in fact a great deal of frustration with our inability to figure out how to avoid a tax cut. There are apparently a number of fears about what the outcome might be if we adopt the two percent across the board cut. So what I am looking for here is to simply give the body another option, to look at what our options are. I am perfectly willing to respond to your letter and attempt to find more cuts with the committee. I think I can speak for the committee to say we've all been in there, we are all realists, as all of you are. And you know that nine people simply do not pass anything on the floor of this Legislature. Our interest is to bring you something that we believe there is a commitment to doing. I think you point out some very valid questions. I think those are some things that we need to resolve as a body, what is our commitment here. Nobody likes to raise taxes. I don't want to raise taxes, but I've got to look at what my options are and what I think are political reality. If there is, in