

because I think that many members of the group will support much of the Appropriations Committee package. There was great enthusiasm for much of what the Appropriations Committee was doing. But at the same time the opportunity to get the shoe on the other foot, we did not want to lose that. So I suggested to Senator Warner that the Appropriations Committee package be an add-on, be treated as an add-on rather than as a substitution to the 2 percent cut. So the procedure would essentially be that we would take up the Appropriations Committee package as an amendment to the 2 percent cut, but the package would not cut the 2 percent. So then in the event that the Warner package is adopted, then you would have before you in one amendment the 2 percent cut and the Warner package, and then the Legislature can go back if they think they have cut out too much spending and add things back in, and add things back in. So that we are worrying about...so that we are not worrying about getting enough cuts, we are worrying about getting too many cuts. Now if Senator Warner is agreeable to that process, that would be super. If Senator Warner is not agreeable to that process, then I think it was the feeling of the people that I was talking to that they would rather have an up or down vote on the 2 percent cut first.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: My main concern, Mr. President, is that individual members will be able to follow what is occurring. Now, I have no problem, Senator Beutler, if we leave them, do the rule suspension, leave the amendment as filed which is the Appropriations, and if that is adopted, then I guess you could amend it to put in 2 and strike that. We are just changing the order. It was the order you were concerned with. That way we would have one or the other cut, which ever one got the 25 votes, right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess we are talking about who should have the benefit of the procedures, Senator Warner. Likewise, if your Appropriations Committee amendment is adopted, you could come back in with an amendment to cut out the 2 percent. You know that could be your option, but I think the feeling was that it would be nice to have a bird in hand, Senator Warner, and if your set of amendments makes a second bird in hand, that is terrific, and, if people feel they want two birds in order to have a big reserve next year, that is fine with me. If they want to get back down