

this time when we have more people in need of assistance with the farm economy and the rural economy going down, with people out of work looking for help with our problems of child and domestic violence, with the family problems that we have and with the harm that is happening to our children that now we are talking about cuts back in programs that are very livelihood and save lives and help families to stay together if possible, and help them overcome the hard times that they face. I ask you very much to support the Chambers amendment to delete this and I would ask you also, if I don't get a chance again, to ask you to oppose the 2 percent across the board cut, because you don't know what lurks out there, what items in the budget like this are going to hurt people in need. I think you have to keep that in mind anytime you talk about across the board cuts. They are onerous because you don't see the enemy and that enemy sometimes is your best friend.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak on the Chambers amendment? Move on to Senator Nelson and then Senator Higgins and Warner and DeCamp. Oh, Senator Beutler has reappeared. Senator Nelson, you are next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I very reluctantly, at this point, oppose the Chambers amendment. I say very reluctantly, because I have a great deal of sympathy with what he is attempting to do. But, what I would prefer to see done in the first instance is the 2 percent, or at least fourteen or fifteen million dollars worth of cuts made over all and then come back in at that point in time with whatever extra money there may be, and pick up perhaps Senator Chambers concern. The only criticism I have of what Senator Chambers is doing is that if this process is allowed to continue we will not get to the point of where we can avoid a tax increase. That is the problem. This first step that Senator Chambers would like to take is a very substantial step. It would eliminate approximately \$940,000 from the package. So, of the 14 million or so that would be the total of the package, in this one exemption approximately 940 of it would be eliminated. You can see it doesn't take too many steps of this type before we don't have a sufficient amount of money to deal with our tax increase problem. For that reason and for that reason only, I oppose the Chambers amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator Beutler. Senator DeCamp, do