

SPEAKER NICHOL: Yes. Yes, okay. The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, I had a second motion, but I have a priority motion. Senator Vard Johnson would move to reconsider Senator Warner's motion to suspend rules.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, at one-forty this afternoon Senator Warner offered a motion that I voted against. His motion was to suspend the rules so that we could simply entertain, in one fell swoop, the cuts provided to us by the Appropriations Committee. At one-forty-five in the afternoon I made a speech against that motion, following a fiery speech by Senator Chambers saying that we should allow nature to take its course. Nature takes its course too slowly. Nature has been taking its course for the last three...the last week. I missed the entire last week, having been in New Haven, Connecticut. But I can tell you that only being here one afternoon I discovered that nature was taking too long to run. The truth of the matter is that the Legislature needs to act. We need to bring issues to substantive votes. I am prepared to bring the Warner issue to a substantive vote. I am prepared for this body to vote up or down on the package. If the package is voted up, that now is in LB 722, we are then free agents to offer individual amendments to 722 to take things out of the package that we did not like, such as the ADC unborn cut, such as the Status of Women cut, such as the Mexican-American cut, such as the Indian Commission cut, such as the Legislative Council cut. We are prepared to do...we can do those things individually. We've always had the right to do those things. Senator Warner's motion does not preclude that right, but Senator Warner's motion does say that we will take our initial vote on the whole package and it will be an up or down vote. I think that this Legislature is anxious to make a substantive decision on the budget. I think we should make a substantive decision on the budget. I think the Appropriations Committee has done a yeoman job, a genuinely yeoman job in putting together \$15 million worth of cuts. I, personally, disagree with about five of those. I, personally, disagree with about 5 of those, but there are probably 20 of those that I find to be excellent cuts and they should be done. So I think that we need to go back, reconsider the motion, reconsider Senator Warner's motion to suspend the rules, upon reconsideration then go and vote to suspend the rules. If the rules are suspended, then vote up or down on the