

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I've kind of been nosing around a little bit on the floor to get a sense as to what folk are saying. I know that there are some members who have very much supported a 2 percent, across the board decrease, who feel that reconsideration of Senator Warner's motion represents a capitulation to the work of the Appropriations Committee. It is not a capitulation. What happens very simply is this, there come times when legislatures have to bring issues to a head and vote upon them. Because we have 49 individuals in this body, each capable of going his or her own way, it is so easy, so easy for us to get sidetracked, so easy for us to spend afternoon, afternoon, afternoon without taking substantive votes on the true issues at hand. Now at one-thirty this afternoon I was of the opinion that we could probably get to the 2 percent amendment relatively quickly. I was wrong. I made a mistake. Senator Chambers has offered several amendments, but so have other people because we are each free spirits capable of our own unbridled enthusiasm, capable of doing anything we darn well please. So I finally said to myself, at about five o'clock, that I would like to be able to at least bring to a vote the question should we reduce the appropriation bill \$15 million. The only way I knew how to bring that to a vote was to move to reconsider the earlier rule suspension issue. Now Senator Chambers says well you can reconsider it because it is a priority motion, but he said just because it is reconsidered doesn't mean that you are going to bring the suspended motion to an immediate vote. He says, I have one more amendment up there. I said to Senator Chambers, as a matter of courtesy, I have no difficulty in that amendment being entertained, none at all, and then we'll go back to the motion. I said though, as a matter of courtesy to me would you indicate to me that you are not going to file more amendments. And Senator Chambers smiled, like the Cheshire Cat, and said I'm a free agent, which of course he is, as we all are. So I am prepared, very simply, to vote to reconsider, permit Senator Chambers...I shouldn't say permit it, but just simply we'll take up the next amendment and then go back to the original Warner motion. But I kid you not, unless we vote to reconsider and then we suspend the rules, and then we take a vote, we will have spent one more afternoon in this citadel of politics spinning our wheels.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The motion is to reconsider. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.