

expressed this to you before, the major flaw in the way that the Appropriations Committee approached this whole subject is that they looked for programs and agencies to cut and they did not look at existing agencies, existing state agencies, and say, can these agencies take a little more of a hit in order to avoid cutting whole programs and agencies? I think that they can. I put that proposition to you now. If you buy that proposition, you save the existence of these five entities. So the question before you, if you allow the question to be put before you, and I hope that you will, is what are these worth to you? Which is more important? And I would argue that before you take away the existence of these agencies, they ought to have a bit more of an opportunity to present their cases to the Legislature before you wipe them out entirely than a mere few phone calls, haphazard phone calls over a day and a half. It may well be, given the budget crunch that we are in that will extend over the next session that if you save these today, you save them only for a year. Who is to say? But I think you should save them for today. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the body to notwithstanding the objection to allow the substitution of this amendment for my existing pending amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator DeCamp, then Senator Haberman, then Senator Morehead. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, if you substitute, you are going to disrupt the system pretty bad now. This is a completely different package, a completely whole new program and it would prevent then bringing to a head the original Appropriations Committee package that you voted on yesterday. My suspension of the rules that comes next does one thing. It only suspends the rules for the purpose of voting, voting on that package. Remember, we have never done that. We adopted it as an amendment to an amendment, but we never adopted that amendment. And if we are ever going to get off dead center, it would seem we have got to decide up or down on that. So I would like to decide that whether we are even going to adopt that package and then are another 30 or 40 amendments, I guess, after that. So this certainly can be offered at the appropriate time like all the various other packages here. And so I am against substitution. I think we should at least vote fairly soon to either adopt or not adopt that package that you put as an amendment to the amendment yesterday.