

amount is going to be five or fifteen or twenty million. But you are probably going to be shy based on statistical data of the past, based upon where we know we are. The only way you can "guarantee no tax increase" is to consider this as an asset available when you run out of the other assets. Hopefully, that will never occur. Realistically, it will occur and you will have to have a special session to set an increase in the tax rate which is going to be more than a little embarrassing. Senator Warner is right. You still haven't cut enough to guarantee no tax increase, as he has repeatedly said. Either increase the taxes or consider your reserves as part of the assets available. Senator Beutler also is right. You should put an amendment on it and I am all agreeable, to make it five percent, nine percent, or whatever, that is no problem. I am saying it is money that should be considered in our tax rate setting process. I am not changing who is taking the money. I am not changing one thing such as Senator Morehead suggests. She says, that was for an emergency. It still remains the same way. I am not changing that one iota. I am simply saying in computing your tax rates, you compute this as part of your reserves, which indeed it is. I ask you to adopt the amendment. I certainly would understand Senator Warner voting against it because he knows ultimately, he believes and he is probably correct, that unless you do this you are going to have to have a tax increase and he believes that is the proper way to do it. I don't want a tax increase. That may not be wise businesswise for the state. I think it is wise politically. It is that simple. That is why half of you are voting against tax increase anyway. So to cover my you-know-what, I am going to make sure that I consider all the assets available. This is the way to do it. I urge you to adopt the amendment. And, yes, I would be happy to put another amendment that says, five and nine percent, because I think that is what the reserves really should be. This would give them about 7.4.

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the DeCamp amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk. Record vote has been asked for.

CLERK: (Read the record vote as found on page 2625 of the Legislative Journal.) 18 ayes, 26 nays, Mr. President.