

to Final Reading and at that time on Wednesday afternoon you cast your final vote on whether or not you have to have the tax rate increase. And if you conclude in your mind the tax rate increase is not necessary, fine, vote against the bill. On the other hand, if you conclude in your mind that the tax rate increase is then necessary by virtue of our other action, then you will have to support the bill. But don't decide it this afternoon. By the same token, this bill can't simply be left here on Select File today because if it is, it's dead.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers. Senator Abboud is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, if we make a blunder by killing this bill today, the only alternative will be for the Governor to call a special session. I doubt if the projections appear not to be adequate and if there have not been enough cruel cuts in the budget, that the Governor will commit further atrocities against those helpless groups that the Legislature has already so cold-heartedly acted against. So the alternative will be a special session. If a tax increase should be necessary, it will indicate that the cutting of those programs that did so much good but which cost so little money were cut to no purpose just for the appearance of really doing a job. So I am supporting what Senator Warner is talking about in terms of not killing this bill. I am surprised that Senator Abboud's name will be on the motion to kill. He and I were the ones who raised the question the other day about whether these cuts would be adequate to prevent a tax increase and I thought his opinion was similar to mine, that there will probably still have to be a tax increase. I asked Senator Warner if he thought the revenue projections are so accurate that he could ensure that there wouldn't be a tax increase and nobody would make an assurance of that kind because the same ones making the projections before that were so erroneous are making them now. What is being done here is like a foolish boxer in the first round of a fight throwing everything he has and if he scores a knockout, fine. But if he doesn't knock his opponent out in the first round, he has no strength, no energy left in the succeeding rounds and he loses. The Legislature has mindlessly and cruelly cut programs but not the ones where the large amounts of money are, not those programs that are really fat that are like the Pentagon that can get whatever they want. The budget of the Department of