

as a whole. So I hope you will, those 24 other than myself, 23 other than myself and Senator Warner because we have both spoken for this, will stick and adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, the proposal is to raise the income tax one percent. I don't suppose any of you have any copies of material about what the impact of that is. Yes, you have had a copy? Okay, I hope that you all do. I have gotten teased by my persistence in passing around the chart that shows the impact of a one percent tax increase. You know, you all misinterpret it. I am concerned about how grievous the impact is and I am not trying to show anything other than that and concern you about what people are going to have to pay. Now the truth is that I felt for a long time that first is the pain that we are suffering with some of the budget cuts and certainly some budget cuts are justified and I have supported, but some of the others are not, that the increase of a one percent income tax at this time, looking at the revenue picture for the future, is a prudent step to take, painful but prudent and it seems to me that I know how difficult it is for many of you. The farm economy, the rural economy is horrible, even in the urban areas of the state we are not seeing much economic growth. It is a bad time. But at the same time we have to recognize that we have to balance the budget. We have to meet our expenses and we have tightened down the screws on that budget to a point where it hurts and we all know it. And there is a lot of concern about it. So we haven't been spendthrifts. We have been frugal and we have cut back and we have made the adjustments that need to be made and now I think we recognize as Senator Warner has indicated that we are still going to be falling short. And I think in these circumstances I would rather do the right thing now than recognize the same sort of sequence of events that occurred in 1981 and '82. If you will remember, we tried and hoped and prayed that we would get through those years without a tax increase and we did everything we could to avoid it. We went special sessions and we did what we could to keep the budget in line and the end result was that the Governor was defeated for reelection because we didn't prudently plan for our fiscal times. And I think we have to keep that in mind today that the public out there are smart enough to know that you have to have enough money to cover your costs, your