

body that meets. I would urge you not to kill the bill. I would urge that you recognize that a biennial budget takes nothing away, absolutely nothing away when the necessity for adjustment is there. It's all plus and it's all plus because you can arrange, determine policy changes and at least have those policy changes implemented where now we start to change them before they are. And the final line, there is no doubt but what the cost of government and the scope of government...

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds, Senator.

SENATOR WARNER: ...will grow at a much less rapid rate if you had the biennial budgets and I hope that you will not kill the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Scofield to address the motion to indefinitely postpone LB 258. Next speakers are Senator Haberman and then Senator Lundy.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, I guess I have to share Senator Hannibal's concern about talking to an empty room here. It is a bit like singing in the shower and if you heard me sing in the shower, maybe that's not a bad idea, but this is a very important bill and deserves not to be killed at this stage, but to be discussed more thoroughly. I think if you had sat on the Appropriations Committee and gone through this process that you would feel very differently about what is proposed here and recognize some of the advantages that this kind of process would give us. Obviously, as Senator Johnson has pointed out, revenue projections are highly unpredictable and I don't foresee any miracles changing that. But at the same time what we're trying to develop here is a process that is smoother and more efficient and not as costly as our current system. In fact, Senator Haberman has expressed some concerns about that and I believe Senator Warner and Senator Hannibal have also addressed these, but, if anything, this system will save us money and give us more of an opportunity for governmental oversight which I think is what all of you were telling us that you were interested in earlier in the rules discussions when we talked about allowing committees to get involved in budget discussions. Let me just give you a couple of examples that I think illustrate points that have already been made. But as I sit in that committee and I listen to state agencies come in every year and present a