

take as more significant than the 3 percent. So I assume, and this is where I get to Senator Lynch, who can speak for whoever would be supporting the bracketing or returning it to committee, is that what it is all about? The CIR language is considered, on a relative scale, of more importance to get rid of or not accept, whatever, than it is to get the 3 percent? Is that where we are? What is happening?

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and Senator DeCamp, to be quite frank I'm not quite sure. What is interesting is that we will and will continue to be always in negotiation as long as people who work for other people have the right to bargain and should have the right to bargain. The reason for the recall for the public hearing is to answer the questions you ask right now. As knowledgeable as you are, never fear when DeCamp is near, they used to say around here, because he knows everything. And if you don't know what is going on, I'd suggest that maybe nobody else on the floor knows what is going on either for sure.

SENATOR DECAMP: Ah, that's what worries me.

SENATOR LYNCH: That is the reason, probably, the best justification that could exist for a public hearing, so that we know. It obviously ties to the raise. It could tie to other negotiations, or other benefits. It could tie to putting off salary increases. There are those on the floor who want no salary increases at all, obviously. It is a pretty important part of the budget. How much? About 11 million bucks. We probably should better understand it, all of us better understand it. That is the reason. I don't want to take anymore of your time, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: That's okay.

SENATOR LYNCH: I can't answer your question, but that is the very justification for the motion to go to a public hearing.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay, so you don't have a fear that if you start having public hearings at this late date, starting over from scratch, that basically you are killing your bill?

SENATOR LYNCH: I certainly don't intend to kill the bill, no. But it could very well help it. It could very well