

they take it. However, as I said, I realize about all I'm going to do this morning is get a bit of a feel for whether there is any mood for change on the subject of a 3 percent salary increase. I believe you could go a long way toward preventing "a tax increase". Let's be honest, politically that is the name of the game this year. You are or aren't causing things that cause a tax increase. Among ourselves over in the club or among ourselves sitting, playing Ping-Pong, or whatever we can say this or that, or we know what is inevitable, but the fact of life, as has been portrayed, is there or isn't there going to be a tax increase and what caused it if it did. I'm suggesting to you that the 5.5 million you'd save here might go an awful long ways towards being able to legitimately say and carry out a no tax increase, and to give public employees a salary increase that would be pretty firm if you did this. Again, do whatever you think is right. But I would submit one final argument. If you believe you've got a 3 percent lock, if you believe you've got a 3 percent lock, I think you are misjudging. I don't think it is as solid as you think, even though, despite the vote yesterday, I don't think that was reflective of what is ultimately going to happen. I think you could lock your 3 percent today but I doubt you'll vote for it. But I think the public employees could lock that in today and I suspect they won't. I urge you to support the amendment.

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

SENATOR DECAMP: It's really not a real vote to get my feel that I wanted. I'd ask for at least a call of the house, and maybe take call ins, and see if there is any...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 9 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The house is under call. Will you please record your presence, those that are here. Those that are not here, please return to the Legislative Chamber and record your vote. Please return to your desks so we can see who is here. Unauthorized personnel, please leave the