

revenue. The Governor has made the comment, I believe, over the radio that we need to take a look at our tax structure, true. But looking at the tax structure will not automatically generate new revenues. I would suggest that this amendment is a very...this kill motion should be supported and if you support it, we can put the Warner amendments on LB 1251 and I think this is a very responsible manner in which to handle it. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner, the Chair apologizes to you. I should have asked you if you wanted to take the motion up today. Otherwise it would have automatically laid the bill over and I am sorry. I apologize for that. What do you wish to do?

SENATOR WARNER: Take it up, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay. You may proceed, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, again I would rise to oppose the kill motion for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the impact that you're going to have that I assume perhaps even isn't intended. If you are not going to provide money, the funds for the 3 percent, and if you are going to pass 1250 which apparently the base bill, then the impact is that state employees will have an ordered 3 percent increase with no funding by program, by agency for it. Now what that then will do, because in 1251 there is also personal service limitations based upon that budget. It means that the only way that that 3 percent salary increase could be effected is by laying people off in order to free up the money to be available as the bills are now written. There is two problems with that. Primarily the problem is that there is no uniformity from program to program or agency to agency. An agency that is heavily...employee or personnel in terms of their budget has a much more severe problem than the agency which has relatively few employees in relation to the total budget, if most of it is for hard goods or other items that are not personnel. But the effect, nevertheless, would be laying off a number of people indiscriminately. I'll repeat again, if you want to cut the state budget, then these across the board approaches which this is what this one is, it's the worst way you can go. If you want to cut the state budget, then you've got to start identifying wholesale programs to be eliminated. That is the only effective way that you are going to, in a long-term basis, and long term is next year, that you're going to avoid the kinds of problems