

if you wish to appropriate this amount, it will be one more incentive for the necessary tax rate that we need anyway. I'm starting to get a little concerned you may spend more than what the tax rate will raise. Because we could be bordering on that. I mean you actually don't need more appropriation, you need a tax increase is what I'm telling you. So I would use some care about how much more I kept adding.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett, then Senator Miller.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to the Vickers amendment to increase aid for the ag in transition, or the farmers in transition program from some 92,000 to some 342,000 plus dollars. This is an increase of more than three and a half times for a program which will not be savaged if this amendment does, in fact, fail. These are new dollars, new dollars for a program which I am in complete sympathy with. The Business and Labor Committee conducted a hearing, a budget hearing on this very issue. Every member of the committee, including myself, was impressed with the program now being conducted through the Department of Labor, called the ag in transition program. It is a very, very worthy program. It accomplishes some very fine things for some displaced farmers, displaced workers who are employed in ag related businesses or industries. But, in fact, in view of our budget constraints and problems which Senator Warner enumerates so well day after day, I do not believe that this is the prudent thing for this Legislature to do at this time. Failure of this amendment will not kill the program. I would hope that the body would, in fact, not adopt this particular amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Miller, then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR MILLER: Mr. President and members, I'm sure it is difficult for some of you to realize the importance of this program. It would be much easier if you would sit in the position that I have been in where people have called you who have been moved off of their farm and do not know which direction to turn. They don't have the expertise to compete in the job market, they've never done it. This job...this program provides them some "leadance" and some guidance. I would say that rather than an expenditure this is an investment to sooner get them back on the tax rolls, to cause them to be income producers for the state rather than people out there who are not producing income. And that is not even touching the moral