

deficit to make up, so in a sense it is accurate to say that the first \$36 million of receipts is not for the budget but for the required reserve and for making up the negative balance that we are starting out with. Now it is equally accurate to portray the size of the budget as a need for the change in the tax rate. Nevertheless, part of what my concern is always is the beginning balance, July, 1987. What we have constantly done in recent years, as we all know, is attempted to go with absolute minimal reserves, and then every year we have problems. If we didn't have problems during the course of the year, we had problems with the new appropriation because there was no beginning balance with which to work. so I would offer this one-half cent increase in sales tax, urge that it be adopted, and advanced to Final Reading, and then if there are a number of vetoes and none of them are overridden, then obviously the bill is not needed. But if you wish to fund to the level of appropriations that currently stands, then it seems to me this is the most appropriate way to do it, and I would urge that the amendment be adopted and the bill advanced, and then we see what happens on appropriations as well as the various A bills that are also still pending.

SENATOR CARSTEN PRESIDING

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Harris, please.

SENATOR HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask a question of Senator Warner.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Warner, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR HARRIS: Senator Warner, if this bill would advance without this amendment, could the bill not then be returned for a specific amendment and then this provision attached?

SENATOR WARNER: It could be up till adjournment time tomorrow night but you could not adjourn until the bill had been reported back properly engrossed.

SENATOR HARRIS: Okay, thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose this amendment. As you know, I have encouraged us to consider an adjournment until May 15 in order to better understand the situation that we are in. There