

there on Final Reading. That is what the game plan is. Get it up there on Final, then we will have the money. Now if we don't pass this, then what are we going to do? We are going to do what we should do and that is cut the budget. We should cut the budget.

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR HABERMAN: So what you are doing is you are being trapped. You are being led into a trap, not to cut the budget, and you ask the citizens who we are supposed to represent and they don't want a tax increase. They want the budget cut and it can be cut if we want to cut it. So I ask you to not to advance LB 539. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Smith, are you back? Senator DeCamp, then, on the Warner amendment.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I have no doubt that some of the things that Senator Haberman says are correct, that there is a goal to increase the sales tax by a half a percent, and that may or may not be what eventually occurs. I do know as a practical matter, all politics aside, just talking about internally the affairs of the place, you have to get the amendment adopted and you have to get the bill advanced to Final, and what we do there is, of course, a separate story. It is going to revolve around veto overrides and the whole picture but it makes no sense at least at this time, in my humble opinion, either to stall the bill or interfere with the process of getting the amendment adopted that clarifies what you are talking about in terms of taxes. I oppose the tax increase. That is what we are supposed to say politically now and I, of course, said it and keep saying it. As a practical matter, you had better get the bill advanced. You had better get the amendment adopted. And when we get the final picture decided here decide whether you are going to finally pass it because otherwise you are just creating the possibility, probability of additional confusion, extension of the session. I don't want a tax increase but I am looking at reality, and you have to have your options open, and the only way to have your options open is to have this bill available, because if you don't have your options open, it isn't going to foreclose...it doesn't foreclose a tax increase. It is just going to make it difficult to get the whole mess straightened out. So to my good friend, Senator Haberman, I suggest that whether you are for or against the bill, it is in everybody's best interest to get this processed.