

Senator DeCamp calls us into or at least suggests the Governor calls us into is to purely look at the budget and spending cuts. Any attempt to balance out the situation to deal with the economic straits we are in is going to have to look at a couple, three and more things, not just one, and what I am saying is, yes, we should come in and look at the budget and if we can make cuts, we ought to consider it, that's fine. But it doesn't go far enough. We have to look at the revenue question. The sales and income tax rates I think clearly will have to be adjusted. That has been stated here on the floor before. I think the validity of that is being proven every day that passes. To try and balance the budget, we are going to have to consider revenue increases through some tax adjustment and balance it off of budget cuts. Then you do have other revenue raising options. The lottery was mentioned by Senator Chambers as something that I am sure some are considering, but there are others as well. If we are going to really deal with the problems we are having in this state, we have to look at economic development. We have to look at ways to encourage that economic base to expand and diversify. And that ought to be part of any effort to look at the situation and make adjustments as well. And so as you start in and talk about this and the decisions we are facing and the problems that we have, you will find that the narrow focus of this resolution is inadequate. And so I suggest to all of you a more comprehensive solution is in order and this does not address that. Now if we had had the time to work together, maybe we will, to come up with something better, I would be willing to support it because I do agree we are in economic straits that will tell us that we aren't going to come out okay at the end of the line, that adjustment in tax rates, further cuts in the budget, other options, are all going to have to be looked at. And I think a special session probably does make sense. I think it would have made more sense to make that tax rate adjustment last session and we wouldn't have had to be in this situation. But, nevertheless, clearly it is a concern we ought to look at. But this resolution is not adequate. It doesn't deal with it functionally and I think we ought to reject it or at least take the time to work on it and make it proper.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Pappas. Senator Pappas passes. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the