

October 31, 1985

session from now until January, but we have to recognize the difficulty of the situation that we face. I don't believe that there are enough senators here today, I mean right, this day, October 31, who would vote to raise the income tax. There are not enough to vote to put in a state lottery. I'm going to say again what I said the other day. There seems to be a sadistic delight being taken by some of the senators in cutting programs, cutting amounts from the programs without solving the problem that the special session supposedly was called to deal with. It would be like having a person in a serious automobile accident where there are fractures to bones from the top of the head to the sole of the feet and the Legislature serving as the doctor and Senator Warner as the chief surgeon with his eight associates, having prescribed this as the treatment for the patient. We're not going to deal with the fractured skull; we're not going to deal with the dislocated vertebrae; we're not going to deal with any of the spinal column problems; we're not going to deal with any of the limbs. What we're going to do is look at some of these ragged fingernails and we're going to take a file and very meticulously file every fingernail, not taking too much off, then polishing them and we have a fractured body whose fingernails have been meticulously manicured by the doctor and his staff and after we finish that, we tell the public we have done great curative work. This is worse than a charade and a hoax. It is not doing justice to the public. No matter what is done during this session within the constraints of the call, the problem is not even going to be touched. We will merely underline how serious it is and how unwilling we are to deal with it. I think Senator Lynch's motion, even though it is more limited than the one to recess until January, should be voted on favorably. If it is not, then those who oppose it should stand up here and tell how what we're doing is solving the problem. We're adding to misery and that's all. There is no leadership, there is no will, there is nothing. This is a travesty that we're participating in. I can see where a lame duck Governor doesn't care. He's got other fish to fry and maybe he doesn't want to make the bed too hard to lie in when he is no longer in politics. Maybe there are friendships being established now. You all have seen on the national level how when politicians get ready to leave office, they try to do things to feather the nest that they are going to be in when they leave. A lot of us take seriously what we are supposed to be doing...