

necessity.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay then, just a couple more questions so I know what we're voting on. As I understand it from you, number one, despite the fact that the handout from the Appropriations Committee talks about the proposal of the Appropriations Committee, you, and I would guess implicitly, those voting for this do not necessarily view it as a package. In other words, if we want to work with the Appropriations Committee, we have not committed ourselves to an "income tax increase" merely by virtue of getting the 2 percent or 1 percent should we choose to do it. The other question I have, are the community colleges treated the same as state colleges and University under this proposal?

SENATOR WARNER: The state junior colleges are treated the same as other governmental subdivisions.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay, so...

SENATOR WARNER: With the exception of those that are funded through DPI.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yeah. So they would be...it would be a significant difference in treatment on them.

SENATOR WARNER: Well...

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay, I understand. Mr. President and members, I think it fair to say that everybody knows that come January, no matter what we do here today, we've got our hands full. We've got our hands full because we've got a tough economy and because over the last 15 or 20 years a lot of things have been built into government at the local, the state, the county level that cost a lot of money and they have expanded. And now with the shortage of revenue, with an economy not going with an inflationary cycle, at least in this state, we've got problems. I feel it is safe to say and I don't think there would be an individual in this room that would contest it, that in dealing with this problem in this special session, the Governor has deliberately handcuffed us. He has handicapped us in the terms of the tools or alleged tools he gave us. However, I accept that. I guess we have to accept it as a fact of life. I would suggest that we recognize the reality that we can make some significant cuts.