

SPEAKER NICHOL: Half a minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: But in making those cuts we be a little cautious in how much long-term damage we do and that we give some heed, first of all, to our first responsibility which is state government and our state institutions. Of course, the University, state colleges are the fundamental centerpiece of state government. And so I think it fair to say that it would not be unreasonable to make that cut at this point in time at least at 1 percent, or if necessary, 2 percent and still recognize that we have to deal with the overall picture in January and it is going to require at that time, when we have all the tools that we need because we're not handcuffed by the Governor, at that time we can deal with the issue. So I'm voting for the 2 percent. In fact, I think I may even attempt to amend it to 1 percent with this understanding, that that is the cuts that are possible and reasonable at this time and that the revenue side indeed is going to have to be dealt with next year and that is when it can be dealt with, should be dealt with when we have all options available. We have no options realistically available now. So let's do the possible and the possible is cuts. Let's do the reasonable, not too much damage and recognize that when we've accomplished that, that is about as far as we can go at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'm going to offer an amendment to move it to 1 percent and just test the water on that. As I say, I'm doing it with the understanding that we have to deal with the other side in January.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, then Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HABERMAN: A question of Senator Warner, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Warner, you and the Budget Committee have spent hours and hours, much deliberation, discussion and came out with a recommendation of a 3 percent cut. And now you are coming out with a recommendation of a 2 percent cut. I would like to ask you, Senator Warner, where are we going to make up the difference between the