

theme should underlie our thinking and our voting and for that reason I intend to support the committee and reduce the budget cuts for both the state colleges and for the University.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator DeCamp, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I think we've reached a point where the session is going to go one way or the other and I think it becomes impossible and unreasonable for me or anyone else to vote on this matter until we have the other half of the equation and the other half is what the Governor is going to do. And, yes, I'm talking politics and, yes, I'm talking practicality, too. If we are going to put 2 percent, 2.5 percent, 1.5 percent for these institutions, it serves no purpose, it serves absolutely no purpose unless we know whether the Governor is going to "line item veto" it down to 3 percent again. Then all we have played is a game of political futility and "what could be a fairly significant session in terms of budget cutting and public understanding of what is going on" is going to be lost. I am willing, and I think others are too, to vote for a 2 percent or even a 1.5 percent if we know that it is not going to be vetoed. I am not voting for it until I know that answer and I would think anybody else would too because you destroy the ability to get the thing done. So I would ask something a little unusual, but I think very reasonable under the circumstances. There has to be communication and cooperation at this point between the Legislature and the Governor's Office, at least an understanding of where each side is going, if we're going to move ahead. I would ask and move that we recess for 30 minutes and half a dozen people from the Speaker to Senator Warner to whoever he would appoint meet with the Governor and see if you can't get an answer as to what will occur on this which is the most critical issue, which is what the whole session has been about, whether it is going to be a 2 percent, a 1 percent, a 1.5 or whether it is going to go back to 3. And so I think it not unreasonable, in fact, I think it necessary and so I would ask that we recess and you send a delegation, who you would name, down to the Governor and come back in a half hour and at least we'll know if he is going to answer, not going to answer. I think it is a moment for cooperation and at least communication if we can't have the cooperation.