

SENATOR HALL: I think there was an amendment up to reinstate the Game and Parks Commission cut down to three percent. I just was wondering if you were here at that time to vote on that?

SENATOR LAMB: I would probably oppose that. But this is not either a cut or an increase. It is merely a change in...

SENATOR HALL: I think I remember that you weren't here to vote on that at that time. I would urge the body to oppose this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, again I wasn't going to comment on this except for Senator Lamb's reference to our previous discussion on the Board of Regents. I know he knows the difference, so I won't lecture him on this. But in case other members of the body aren't clear on the difference between the Board of Regents and the Legislature not earmarking their spending and the Game and Parks Commission, which is a creature of the Legislature, which exists under direct oversight of the Legislature, just let me make a comment on that. Board of Regents have gone to the court to challenge the Legislature's authority to earmark their spending. They won that case. We do not have the authority to tell them what to do. All we do is play games with them when we try to earmark or not earmark. This particular case is an agency whose budget is directly under our control. We can tell them where to spend and we cannot tell them where to spend, point number one. The other point, despite that argument and despite that contention, I guess all I have to go on is the document here that is in my hand signed by Senator Howard Lamb. It doesn't say remove intent language. It says reinstate permanent staff at Victoria Springs, reinstate. That sounds to me like a direct order by the Legislature. With that I don't think we are at the time where we need to be adding more spending back in, reinstating cuts that have been made, therefore I agree with Senator Hall, that we should not support this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: I call the question.