

November 6, 1985

recollect calling anybody names. I pointed out, as I point out again, I am against an income tax increase. I am for doing the cuts and getting out of here. I am happy that up until now the issue of the income tax was forbidden to us, even though I contend, as I repeatedly stated, that inherently as a power of this Legislature we can basically deal with any of the subjects we have, but the Governor had set the boundaries. I was willing to live within them which was cutting rather than tax increasing and trying to prevent any tax increases, and I kind of had it going that way, and I thought I could stop the final one which was the income tax increase. And for me then that would have been and will be a very satisfying session, about 35 million in total cuts over the next two years, and basically no new taxes, and I said in a letter I wrote to the Attorney General here a week or so ago, I am fearful that the Governor will change his mind because I have witnessed that conduct in the past. And when and if he should happen to change his mind and repudiate completely his idea that there would be no tax increase, and say instead I want you to do a tax increase, then I want to know if he can do that within the call, if he can just expand the call. And I say I contend that it can't be done in that manner. That is a separate question from whether the Legislature inherently has the power anyway. It is a separate question and I think it changes the voting pattern, and to argue that point, to raise that point, Senator Landis, merely means I am continuing to battle the issue of income tax increases. I contend that we have been taken down a path, a primrose path, if you would, which has been clear to some and a little vaguer to others, and that path is trap you far enough on your cuts, cut the 3 percent to 2 percent and then close the trap, and the balance of the trap is now you must do an income tax increase and here is the power, and that is what I was warning you against yesterday and the day before when you went from 3 to 2 you weren't doing it without strings attached. Now you are seeing the strings, and for me to raise that question and continue to fight the income tax increase, Senator Landis, doesn't mean that I am calling anybody names, doesn't mean that I, at least, have changed position, and doesn't mean that "I am seeking the evening news anymore than, well, maybe than the comedians in the crowd." So I oppose an income tax increase. I think the Governor does not have the authority to do this in this manner. I think it adds confusion to a Legislature that knew where it was going pretty well for awhile here. We have the budget bill pretty