

Senator Johnson and I think it would behoove us all to support the collection of the taxes so that we don't have to increase the rates. Obviously from a matter of fairness I would think that all the citizens of the state would want the tax laws applied equitably and fairly to all, and that if there is anything that we shouldn't be doing at this point in time, it is letting people get away with not paying their legitimate taxes. I think if you ask the citizens of this state what we should do first in order to close the gap between expenditures and revenues, they would say cut expenditures. The next thing they would say, the next thing they'd say is be sure you are collecting all the taxes you are supposed to be collecting. Are all the citizens paying fairly, or am I getting cheated because I am paying and somebody else is not paying. If you don't have adequate revenue agents you start to create the situation of enormous tax inequity simply because some people don't pay their legitimate taxes. So I think there would be widespread sympathy and total support in the state for putting this money back in to see that taxes are collected from those who should be paying taxes. I think this is just basic good government and is not really a place where we can afford to skimp.

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

SENATOR DECAMP: It's too early to call the question, I suppose. Okay, I won't.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR NELSON: Question of Senator Johnson or maybe Senator Beutler, maybe Senator Johnson.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I certainly agree that this is good business, sound principles. I'm not questioning that in the least, however, of course, you know one budget or another. What assurance, though, do you have? This ran through my mind the other day that this money, why is it, the same old trick in all budgets, why is it right away to have a little more efficiency in the office and the budget and so on. You