

collect the dollars that are out there. With that I would offer the motion to return the bill to Select File for the specific amendment.

SENATOR HANNIBAL PRESIDING

SENATOR HANNIBAL: That was Senator Johnson's closing. The question before you now is, shall the bill be returned? All those in favor will signify by saying aye, and those opposed saying no...board vote. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 18 nays.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: The bill has been returned. Now we are on the motion itself. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, you've heard the arguments. I suppose there may be others who would wish to make additional arguments, I would hope not. I do wish to make a couple of additional points that I had not thought of. Senator Carsten made an excellent argument a few minutes ago when he indicated that if the Revenue Department's budget was as important as we are claiming that it is, then Governor Kerrey would not have proposed a three percent reduction.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: The call is raised.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I do know, from personal conversations with Governor Kerrey, that he felt it necessary simply to come in with a three percent across the board reduction, and he wasn't particularly selective as to that which he chose for reduction and that which he did not choose for reduction. I think it is our duty in life to be relatively selective and to be as protective as we can of the state fisc, because that is what it amounts to. And, in the end of this bill does get this amendment attached and is advanced, he can always veto it back and we can make our final decision on a veto override. But I would hope that by that time he would choose not to veto it back, that in fact the Revenue Department's budget will remain essentially intact. With that, I would ask the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Warner.