

that kind of cut back. Then Senator Warner says if in fact you wanted to collect an additional \$38 million in taxes, why don't you just increase the Department of Revenue's budget \$3.8 million and you can get those kinds of taxes collected. Well, it is correct that I am using in a sense an averaging concept which is the ten to one concept. But I believe, as I stand here and as I make representations about this bill to you, that in fact we can reduce the Department of Revenue's budget \$318,000 and we will find somewhere along the line that we will lose at least the same amount of money if not more so, if not more so in state tax collections simply because we have eliminated some people who are in the business of collecting our taxes and enforcing our laws, and in addition the Department of Revenue could also simply decide not to hire or replace some clerical employees and our taxpayers will find their refund times extending, and extending, and extending, and they will become increasingly grumpy with our state, rightfully so because we have held their money far longer than we should have held their money. I think the Department of Revenue's budget is one of those budgets that we simply have to stand behind, we have to observe, we have to watch, we have to protect because it really is responsible for the state fisc, for the money that it takes to run the government. Finally, one additional point, there is another player in this game and that is Governor Kerrey. If this amendment passes, and if the bill passes as amended, Governor Kerrey has it within his power to re-examine his own considerations of the Department of Revenue budget. If he concludes that my words and your votes are unwise he can always veto it back if he chooses.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Or if, on the other hand, he rethinks the issue and decides you know what those 26 folks said about the Department of Revenue's budget is essentially correct, then he will leave it intact, he is the other player. Again, the game is not over until it's over. But the first step is for us to act responsibly for our own tax collector's budget. With that, I would offer the amendment. I think before I do that though, I better ask for a call of the house to make certain we get everybody on the floor. So I will ask for a call of the house.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Call of the house has been requested.