

cut, those votes simply will not be there for the income tax increase and the cigarette tax increase. Now I learned that pretty early on during this session in talking to a variety of people and what I learned is that again a significant majority of members in our Legislature understand our fiscal needs and know that we need to increase our revenue. They know that we need to do that, but they also know... we also recognize that such an increase could not be affected in the absence of any kind of budget cuts. So we are now going to do the first part of the package, the budget cuts. And, again, I am confident in the good faith of the membership of this body and I am confident in the reliability of the membership of this body to know that the second piece of the package will be there when it is needed this Friday. So for that reason I will support Senator DeCamp though I do know that Senator Chambers' remarks are very well taken.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator DeCamp, would you like to close?

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, just to put things a little bit in perspective. Remember why we were called. We were called for a package offered by the Governor, a very limited package. It involved I think four or five tax increase or new tax proposals and some cuts. Now think about where we are right now at nine forty-five. The cuts in approximately the amount that we had all pretty well agreed on, they are a little less, they are 17 million instead of 19 million, but they are ready for the final vote. They have been processed and reprocessed. What are the other elements of the session? The homestead exemption, it is completed, you just passed it. The limitation on city and county liability, it is completed, you just passed it. The increase in abstracts, the new tax increase there, it has been processed. It was defeated. The gas tax transfer which would have dealt with the increase in gas taxes and so on, it has been processed. It has been defeated. The, what do