

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, many times in the 17 years I have been in this position I can't count the number of times that I have done that which someone is going to do today and cast the decisive vote that will cause the bill to become law after it had been not enacted with the emergency clause. I have stood in Senator Tim Hall's shoes and I have stood in the shoes of all of you. I want to say at this time that I have no quarrel with those individuals who, out of the deepest conviction, have voted for certain cuts in certain areas and have not voted for cuts in other areas. I would hope by the same token that those of you who disagree with me would not think that I voted for a transfer of the funds from the Department of Roads to the General Fund in a moment of pick or obstinacy. I have said on the floor many times, I believe, that as we go down this road you're going to find more and more of the difficult decisions and as you travel each day more nearly toward January 1st, you're going to find those decisions additionally more difficult. Oh, it's not hard today, it really isn't, to secure the additional two votes to enact the additional 1 percent income tax. I'm not saying that it is done easily, I'm not saying that it is the wrong thing to do, I'm saying it is not going to be too difficult to get it done. What is going to be difficult is, a few weeks from now or a few months from now, when you come back here and you have a position which you believe to be right, would you try to explain to your colleagues and for which you receive no satisfactory answer and no solution and for which there may not be any solution, there may not be any solution. I have said from the outset and I have tried to work and I have, I think, worked with the Governor and with this body closely from a long time. I have questioned, as some of you have, whether or not we have the tools to do that which we were ordered or commanded to do. If you are ordered to build a house you must have tools and lumber and plaster and that sort of thing with which to build. Now you can build it, but you don't necessarily build the best kind of a house. I suggest we have not built the best kind of a house because we do not have the best kind of tools with which to work. In January you are going to have open access to tools. I have said the reason we are in the difficulty we're in today is because at several points on the road this body and others did not take those actions that we should have taken to assist in maintaining a strong economy. Oh, it's easy to get up here today and talk on behalf of the University or the poor, the handicapped, the roads, any of