

(Amendment appears on page 23 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'm not going to be back next year as we all know and, therefore, I can say and in a sense almost do things that somebody else might secretly want to do but maybe for one reason or another feel they can't. If these three commissions are in existence in any form next year, and particularly if you have cut them a little bit more now, either through the Landis version or through the committee version or the Governor's version, there is one thing you can be guaranteed. They will be back. They will use whatever resources they have and can mobilize to continue and expand their existence and the most important thing is that they will be successful. That's a guarantee. No matter how you feel or think you feel, that is a guarantee. Because, you see, they have been through the fire and brimstone and hell about four or five times now in the last couple of years and each time they have gotten stronger. Are they good? They have turned into the best professional lobbyists there are and I applaud them, but I think they are not a proper function of government and, therefore, while applauding them I also want to annihilate them. The only way to do that is to take away their money. Having done that, you can truly say you came into a special session designed to cut appropriations and you did it in the most direct and honest fashion possible by actually cutting programs, cutting programs that go on and on, on for years. You've actually turned the clock the other way. If you don't do this, if you don't eliminate them, you've just taken about 20 to 30 percent of the next session on something that is going to be minor, in a sense, but very symbolic in the direction other things go in that general session. I'm giving you a chance here to make sure the next session, the next session, has one piece laid in place now that makes it function more efficiently, both financially and in terms of what you are going to have to deal with. Now if you believe in these advocacy agencies and many of you do, then obviously you should reject my amendment. But I would say you should also probably reject any further wounds to these three entities. Either get over this issue and get on to other ones or get rid of them now. So I ask you to support the amendment or pass over this issue and just cease to do any more to these three agencies, because you can see the next couple of hours and really the direction of the special session pretty well dictated by what happens on this.