

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, the Clerk shows me there is about 15 or 18 excused. I am not sure how much good anything does with that many excused, but I will take up this amendment anyway. Yesterday we declined by one vote to eliminate the cut in aid to education, thereby, so it's been argued, shifting that cost over to local property tax. \$3.8 million next year, \$1.9 million this year, for a total of about 6 million that will all be loaded into property tax unless something is done essentially in one year.

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) Could we please have the level of conversation a little lower so those that wish to hear can. Thank you, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Now it's been repeatedly argued that the only way to truly reduce spending rather than shift spending is to, in fact, begin cutting programs. If we do something here and it doesn't pass on down the line, we have accomplished little, in fact, we have accomplished damage. So my amendment simply says at the local school board level, as a result of these cuts, you will come up with programs that identify where you have made the cuts and you will submit that information to the Legislative Fiscal Office or Analyst by February 1, 1987. In essence, then I am saying we are cutting and we are passing on the cut down the line and saying, now, you identify it, and, yes, if you want to turn around at the local level and say, we're cutting this program or that program as a result of being mandated by the Legislature, that's fine. But at least the people will know that you haven't just shifted it to property taxes and most important it will, in fact, be a true cut. You will have passed it on down the line, given both the authority and the direct order to cut that much spending out of your budget and identify where you have cut it and to provide that information back to the Legislature. Short of doing something like this, it is foolhardy to think when you simply make the cut here you are doing anything more than shifting it somewhere else. So I ask for adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Goodrich, please.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President and members of the body, would Senator DeCamp yield to a question, please?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yup.