

out in his opening, to deal with the myriad of tax issues that are going to be before us no matter what we do this session, no matter what transpires in the way of a potential constitutional amendment, those issues don't go away. Things that we need to address on a wholesale level, in my opinion, in terms of looking at the tax issue, we have addressed the tax issue on a piecemeal basis depending on the crisis of the day. What we do here is put together a base of information that allows us to make quality decisions, something that, unfortunately, because of the nature of the climate we have found ourselves in when we deal with these issues has not been available to us. With that, again, I would just urge adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I have really no objection to the appropriation. My concern, I guess, is I would like to ask a question of either Senator Hall or Senator Warner that if the constitutional amendment passes, I'm concerned as to what will be left for the...for the 3-R Committee or the Blue Ribbon Committee, or whatever you want to call it, to do, and when will you go to work. Are you going to just sit and twiddle your thumbs until the constitutional amendment is decided upon? How can you do anything until the constitutional amendment has been voted upon by the people? If they say, nuts, then I guess you're going to have a crash program. If they say, go ahead, then I think we're programmed for disaster. I guess, my concern is how are you going to function? I would like to know that.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Schmit, I would be happy to respond to that. The question is predicated on the fact that the constitutional amendment would, I guess, pass the body which is a...very tenuous at best, but anyway the issue is what we do in case the constitutional amendment is passed out of this body and up for special election sometime in August of this year. I don't think that affects the issue of gathering information as it relates to our tax system. If the constitutional amendment were to come out and pass in some form, it, first of all, would depend on what form it took. Second of all, it would be I guess up to this body to determine that but, in any case, the group would continue or begin to work, I would guess, the middle of June, probably about a week after we adjourn here. There has already been some work done, some staff people have begun to compile some information. But in no way, I don't think would the passage or the nonpassage of the constitutional amendment