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in the cost of government that we have spent, that we have used or abused, if you like, but it is a debt, a very shameful debt, for our government being left to our children. In addition to that and probably even more painful is the fact that annually we are paying approximately 40 billion dollars in debt, no retirement of principal, but pure and simple inflation, interest on a national debt. Congress refuses. It has been petitioned many times. It refuses to take action to halt this debt. Fortunately, our Constitution does provide that the people of this state and other states in the nation may, by their initiative, take an action that supercedes that of Congress. We talk so many times of the checks and balances of the three agencies of government, judicial, legislative and executive. There is a fourth and far stronger check and balance and it is called the Constitution, and in Article 5, it says Congress may propose amendments to the Constitution to be subsequently ratified by the states but it also designates that states have a parallel and equal power acting by a two-thirds majority to demand that Congress call a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of amending the Constitution. Now this Resolution asks that Congress, one more time, place upon the ballot an amendment to the Constitution which says the United States shall balance its budget annually. Now it does not set a limitation. It simply says, you will balance it. You will stop the never-ending increase that we have gotten into in this matter of a national debt. But it says, alternatively, that if Congress does not do so, we are calling upon those other two thirds of the states to join with us to call a Constitutional Convention and place upon the ballot subject to ratification by three quarters of the states an amendment that says, constitutionally, that the government will balance its budget. No longer will Congress be able to perpetrate this mortgage on the future of our children and this totally unchecked debt inflation which is striking at the very heart of the economy of this country. I am delighted that a great many of you have joined me in offering this. I am delighted that the Governor saw fit to comment and I urge you to support it. I move for its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Pardon, before I take out on some debate on this Resolution, I wish to say to the Clerk that this type of Resolution must be handled as a bill and, therefore, I did issue a Committee report on it, and the Committee report, we had this two years ago, this same situation. The Committee report should have been in the Journal.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Committee report is in the Journal.

SENATOR SYAS: Where is it?

CLERK: Page 437.

SENATOR SYAS: Thanks for telling me, but you see, you referred me to...okay, I will stand corrected. If that