

a week or two weeks or three weeks from now when you come in with your Budget Committee because we are not going to have time. So I would urge the body to support 918. Then we won't have to go through all this hassle again when they come out with the Budget Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I agree with Senator Haberman in the fact that I would like to support 918 and with the Fowler amendment it would be in a position where I can support 918. It gives us flexibility, not only through normal legislative channels but also directly on this floor to allocate this money and depending on revenue sources and what have you. I think Senator Fowler's amendment is a good amendment. It essentially, all it does is provide for flexibility that I think makes a lot of sense. It is our responsibility to appropriate money and only our responsibility. That can only be done on the legislative floor. The Governor can't appropriate money. No one else can appropriate money, only the Legislature. This gives us the total flexibility to make this appropriation depending on all the contingencies that exist and there are a lot of contingencies. We have bills coming across this floor like Senator Labeledz' homestead exemption that is going to be very popular and a lot of us are going to want to support that. We are going to have all kinds of bills coming across this floor requiring state expenditures and state dollars and I think we all know that we have limited resources. We cannot budget by needs. We have to budget by receipts or budget by income and I think if we do not give ourselves the flexibility right now with Senator Fowler's amendment and we lock ourselves into these kind of programs precluding even the consideration of some other program that we may be very personally and very vitally and our constituency very desperately interested in, we are making a big mistake. I just don't think it is a good idea to tie our hands this early in the ballgame. I don't think it is a good idea to set a course right now that we cannot change if we decide we want to change it and so I think that Senator Fowler's amendment doesn't drastically change the concept and only gives us the flexibility with which to operate. I urge very strongly the adoption of this amendment. I notice a lot of people voting on this bill really not absolutely sure of what they are doing and what the ramifications are. I think there has been a lot of confusion on this bill and so I very strongly urge you to take a real strong look at this, consider it very carefully before you cast your vote because it is just a matter of keeping your options open and that makes good sense to me.