

SENATOR CLARK: Is it your amendment?

SENATOR WARNER: Committee amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: All right. We will take up the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the amendment offered by the Appropriations Committee is found on page 555. It is signed by Senators Warner, Fowler, Dworak, Rumery and Marsh. (Read amendment). Mr. President, that amendment is found on page 555 of the Journal).

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner, on the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, three years ago this morning seemed like a good idea. Today it seems like a good idea but the impact of what we are deciding today is significantly different than when I was thinking about the existing rule that we are now operating under three years ago. And the significant difference is that three years ago we could usually set a budget target figure without too much concern about receipts because we pretty well knew what they were and what was stable. Today we are in the midst of a great deal of indecision as to what the receipts are going to be. Not only are we undecided about their total but we are undecided about individual amounts as to what will be taxed, individual items. I look upon the adoption of this resolution as perhaps having more significance than we sometimes have attached to it. I have called it a guide and that essentially is what it is because it is not binding. I also understand as I am sure each of you do understand that how you vote on this resolution for a total spending is going to affect how you can vote on other measures later on. Because if we vote to have a total target figure, then it would become exceedingly difficult, I would think, for us to individually vote to exceed that when we start dealing with the parts of the whole through A bills or amendments or the budget bill itself as the session goes along. So in effect we are placing a ceiling on what the Governor can sign. By adoption of a resolution we are putting a ceiling on what this Legislature can probably pass, so I think it is highly significant. I don't know how many of you have fully read the report that was passed out where there was an attempt to do two things, give you a view...overview of what has occurred, what the trends have been on expenditures as well as receipts, but more significantly point out some of the decisions that