

also enacted but it would permit the funding of some of these programs which I am sure many of you will want to vote for later on. With that, Mr. President, I would move that the amendment to the resolution be adopted.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner, it has been suggested that you use the same tone and the same clarity of voice when you explain the budget, please.

SENATOR WARNER: I just did explain the budget.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think I am going to end up repeating in part what Senator Warner has said, but I want to indicate perhaps some frustration I feel. I was on the Rules Committee and we adopted Senator Warner's rule and I was a real advocate of the rule at the time that it went through the Rules Committee and I still think that it is an excellent rule. But the rule as we are all aware puts a cap on how much we are willing to spend. It tells the Appropriations Committee what our overall budget is going to be, and the underlying assumption when we were thinking about this in the Rules Committee was that, well, whatever we decide the cap is, if we need more revenues we will go out and we will have to raise the sales and income tax if that is what we decide. If the budget is lower, we will lower our sales and income tax. But the fact is that this year the situation is much more complicated because it is not just a simple matter of raising and lowering of the income and the sales tax. We are trying to deal with the question not only of how much in terms of expenditures but the question of which revenue tools are we going to use to raise the money. And I don't know if you are like me but right now I am confused about some of the different ideas that are going around and which of those ideas are, in fact, going to get out of the committees, particularly the Revenue Committee, and are going to be the actual tools that we use to implement whatever spending program we come up with. You know, we have the income tax, the corporate income tax structure change. Is that going to be one of the tools? The cigarette tax, is that going to be one of the tools? Alcohol taxes. Are we going to use that? Is the bill going to be coming through to lower the reserve from 3 to 2 percent? Are we going to increase the individual income tax? All these items are unknown right now.