

February 25, 1982

LB 304

that is low. I personally feel that we are in a depression and I think we are going to find that our income tax and sales tax, and fortunately next week we will be able to find out what we did in February, I would just feel that we are likely to find that we are in much worse shape than we think.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I would like to hear what we are voting on. I mean, this is kind of a little more than a passing.... it is not in the Journal?

CLERK: No, sir.

SENATOR CLARK: The Clerk will read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, the amendment reads as follows: (Read the Carsten-Warner amendment as found on page 851 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to vigorously oppose it as one individual can, and I am going to lose and I know that, because suddenly the Bible is switched now and now we are all going to be in favor of supposedly saying we are in favor of a tax increase. And no longer does it say 16 percent which just a few days ago and a few weeks ago was the magic figure, now it is minimums of 16 percent. Okay, let me ask anybody in this whole room, how do you even know what you are going to spend yet? Do you when you pass this, do you ratify a \$15 million increase in state employees' salaries? Do you ratify and say, okay, now we have approved a pretty major increase in the University budget? Because I think you are saying that, because you are talking about the Governor's budget, vis-a-vis the other budget, and you are just picking a number but in those numbers are included all these things. Why don't we do the first thing? And the first thing is deal with the issues of what we are going to spend. That is already a procedure, an administrative procedure to decide how you process or how you set the tax rates. That is all set up. It's worked, been tried, and tried and tried over, and, yes, it has been used politically back when old Exxon was here, you can remember everybody was always trying to say, aw he raised the tax rates or we raised the tax rates. You remember the game, but it was a procedure that worked pretty well, and now today because I guess the tune has switched in the chorus line somewhere, now suddenly we are going to say, okay,