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bail out of the lack of administration of state government. That is all this amendment is, is a bail out of the administration of state government which has the duty. They may argue that they are not authorized...that the Governor is not authorized to meet the State Board in emergency session. I do not read the law that way. There are four reasons for giving and I think it is easy and plain to see that the Governor can call the State Board, no problems exist with it, and adjust the rates, and should have done so six months ago because it was obvious six months ago that we were spending, had authorized and planned the spending of more dollars than what the revenue system would take in. The only reason anyone could expect something else to happen was a complete...a complete belief in trickle down economics, that giving tax breaks to the wealthy was going to stimulate the economy. It didn't work that way in the thirties when it was tried before and it is not working that way now, and it is not going to work that way until national policies are turned around. I oppose this amendment and I would support any resolution to require the Governor to do his job. I think it is time that the Legislature come out with a resolution and demand the administration of state government do its job. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Warner's amendment. Senator Warner has pointed out the precedent that we have for legislative setting of the sales tax rate. Senator Warner has noted how the Legislature has conducted itself in comparable periods when we have faced a significant economic downturn, how we have in effect allowed interfund borrowing, how we have increased the sales tax rate either through other appropriational matters or else just done it directly. It strikes me that one of the principal functions of this body is a function of true leadership. True leadership means taking tough action and also it means going to the public and explaining tough decisions. I have had no reticence at any time to vote to increase the tax rates knowing the fiscal condition that we were in and knowing that I would have ample opportunity during the course of my reelection campaign to explain to the public why it was necessary for the Legislature to increase the corporate tax, the cigarette tax, to understand that an increase would occur in the income tax and also increase the sales tax. We have done a yoeman's job in my opinion in reducing the budget, in getting our budget into a very tolerable level for these economic times, and I think that we now need to explain to the people and the people will

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