

in one sector as against cuts in another sector. That is the first problem with the Warner amendment from my point of view. Secondly I think we have to remember that we are a government family and that the state government is the parent and that the children are the cities and the counties and all the political subdivisions of the state. Traditionally last year I think our budget, depending upon how you identified aid to the local political subdivisions, was forty to fifty percent of our budget but the reductions proposed by Senator Warner and by the Governor generally speaking ask the state government, state government to bear the brunt of the reductions...

PRESIDENT: A minute, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...as opposed to asking the children, the political subdivisions, to share in that reduction. I have just seen Senator Warner's amendment this morning because it was just first available this morning, but if I understand it correctly, only around twenty percent of the reductions will be born by local political subdivisions or less than that, depending upon how you define it. In my view the local political subdivisions should be sharing in this reduction in a proportionate manner because philosophically what is happening if you don't do this and if you don't significantly increase the taxes is that you are destroying slowly state government in favor of local government, and it is my opinion and I always thought it was Senator Warner's opinion that the first obligation of the state revenues was to support in an adequate manner state government itself, i.e., the state agencies. So that, too, in my opinion is a fatal flaw in the Warner amendment and what I am saying to you is cut the fat that we can cut now, the cash funds, the construction deferrals, and when we come together in January, we can review the whole situation in a timely manner and in a thorough manner and decide what should be cut, what should not be cut, and how much the tax rates should go up. If we have to raise the tax rate at that time, so be it, but I don't think it is crucial or important right now to raise the rate one percent. In fact I think it is unnecessary at this point in time, because looking at what the Governor identifies, there is a lot of fat there,...

PRESIDENT: Time is up, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...a lot of money that is not being used but cutting the state agency reductions is not the way to go about it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.