

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, first of all I want to commend Senator Warner. I believe he is offering his proposal and his plan because he believes from a statesman's standpoint as he perceives it that may be the best plan. Reluctantly though I again repeat I am going to oppose that and I would urge you others to do it also. And now I am going to say I guess the things you are not supposed to say. It is a political issue and let's face it. In the minds of the people, it is a black and white issue at this point and it has been cast into that mold by the special circumstances of the session, by the assurances from the Governor as to the needs for the session. By any variety of factors, it is a black and white issue of whether you are going to have a tax increase or not a tax increase and the best evidence I offered for that particular statement is the Warner plan, noble as it might be, wise as it might be, is second-guessing, I repeat, it is second-guessing all the experts who are being paid relatively good salaries to give us the information and, second, it is interpreted immediately by the media, right or wrong, good or bad, wise or unwise, fair or unfair, as simply a tax increase, Warner Calls for More Taxes. At this point in time with the water that is under the bridge, it seems to me the only responsible move is to support essentially intact the proposal by the Governor that has as its goal no tax increase. Now I have heard the same rumors that everybody else in this room has and those rumors are that, well, the Governor really does want the Warner plan. That is really what he wants. I don't know that. The only information I have at this time is simply that the Governor has a proposal there, a proposal that has certain promises it theoretically will live up to, and that is the proposal I think we should be supporting under the circumstances of this particular session and the circumstances of the Constitution given the Governor to call it, and the circumstances of the 28 to 20 vote last Friday where we said that is why we are here, that is what it is all about, up or down, black or white, tax increase or no tax increase. Let me just close by saying I do commend Senator Warner and I know he is offering his proposal under the most statesman like conditions and he is a statesman but I would urge you to reject it because it is a second-guessing at this point of everything.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think this morning as I view this financial situation down the road for the next two, three, four years, we are only beginning. This is only the first drop that we are going to be faced with and my support of Senator Warner is just