

If you believe it is wrong, vote that way. I can always go home and defend that I did what I thought was right. I can never honestly go home and say I did it because it was politically expedient, it was an easy way out, I am not looking ahead, I want to create a crisis. That is not an option of responsible government. That is not why I ran for the Legislature. I would hope that you would seriously think the consequences. You may well be in the position of explaining now or explaining later why the tax rates are adjusted. That can be done. Now there have been a couple of other suggestions and I looked at other suggestions, too. A couple of weeks ago my first reaction was to do the one thing of deferring capital construction and using up cash because that is the easiest and obviously what you ought to do in the short run. And then I saw the projections for '82-'83 receipts and it was immediately clear to me that to go that route makes a much greater difficult position next session. Now I have already acknowledged initially that I anticipate some selected tax increases next session whether you adopt my amendment or not and the one I pointed out, if you look at the sheet, because of the federal tax change even if you go to eighteen percent, the corporate tax collection is going to be less than it was at fifteen prior to the federal tax change. Now there will not be a soul in here, I would bet, that will say when that bill comes before us that we should not adjust the state rate to accommodate that reduction in the federal tax base for corporations. There also will obviously be some other selected increases on the so-called "sin" taxes probably but even with that if the projections are right you are talking about very little income increase and you will be looking at real cuts. Now there is no difference in the cuts between my amendment and the cuts that the Governor made in total. True cuts are the same. You have to make true cuts if you want to provide some relief for the '82-'83 session. Deferral is not a cut. Deferral is shoving the problem ahead as some of you have already indicated. It does not avoid the problem and I agree that it does not. I also thought that the proper thing to do was to make a one percent reduction across the board, share it with everybody including all aid programs. You recall that I asked a letter be sent to all agencies Wednesday...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: ...asking if they could live with the proposed reductions. Fifty-one said they could live with the three percent. It became obvious to me that I couldn't stand up here and defend a one percent reduction or no reduction if fifty-one agencies said, "Yes, we can do that."