

an agency of state government has an employee that is not a good employee, why are they still there? If we get in a situation where we have a shortage of dollars, why don't they simply terminate those types of employees, and if they are not going to terminate them, I guess what Senator Hefner is saying is that they should use the three percent as a way to punish those employees that are not good employees rather than eliminate the positions. It would seem to me that it would be a wiser idea to eliminate those positions if they are not a good employee but I think what is going to happen if this isn't adopted is that the various agency heads, the various people that are in the position to make those decisions will probably make the decision to lower the salaries of their employees that are under them, but I cannot envision agency heads lowering their own salaries. You know, the average citizen out there when they think of bureaucrats and what happens in government, normally they are opposed to government spending because they feel that they...not because they feel that they are not getting the...that they want to get at that government employee that is down the street from them, the roads employee that is out there filling up the chuckholes, they want to get at the fat cats or the bureaucrats that are at the top of the heap and I think that is true whether it is state government or whether it is the federal government and I think most of the constituents, most of the citizens of this nation are frustrated because they realize that those so-called fat cats or the bureaucrats, the agency heads, and I am not insinuating that they all fit in that category, but that is the general feeling by the average citizen that those people are insulated, insulated from the cuts, insulated from the various approaches that we use to reduce government spending. We reduce it at the bottom end but we don't reduce it at the top and I am simply suggesting that if we are going to reduce government spending, if it is going to affect the employees' salaries, then it should affect all employees salaries the same, and in spite of what Senator Hefner says, that does not, does not interfere with the ability to issue merit raises, and I repeat that if an agency has people that they can eliminate because of the three percent cut, they have that power and they certainly can do so. I would urge the body's adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the Vickers amendment. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 26 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.