

Legislature wants to deal with and it may not pass when we do deal with it but, frankly, I still feel very strongly that that is the correct and right way to do it. Most, in fact, every other state in the Union does set their own tax rates because they have the primary responsibility for setting what makes up those tax rates and that is the budget. The other proposal was one that would reduce the overlevy, and I have explained why I introduced that bill but Senator DeCamp, who is always a power in the Legislature, who always is in the middle of the action, made some very early proposals. He decided after a little debate that he would be also one of the Governor's better supporters. Johnny and I are now in agreement on that issue and he offered this Legislature some rules which I presume really came from the Governor's Office and those rules said simply that we were not going to introduce or consider anything that the Governor did not propose, only those things that the Governor gave us would be considered. Basically Johnny's argument was it is his session, he called us here, he wants us to do this, we should decide whether we are for it or agin it, and that is how we should limit ourselves in our actions during this special session. I think that is an abrogation of our rights and responsibilities and I said so on the floor at the time, and I concur with Senator Wiitala's motion and his resolution only because of that. That, in fact, is why we are where we are at today. Senator Nichol is...

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol, for what purpose do you (interruption)?

SENATOR NICHOL: Well, I just wanted to say I thought Senator Newell was off the subject of the amendment Senator DeCamp proposed and I wanted to hear what Senator Newell had to say about that.

PRESIDENT: Yes, I wish you would get back to the subject.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, as I said as I rose that I stood in opposition to Senator DeCamp's amendment, as I said that I was in favor of Senator Wiitala's resolution and I have been stating the reasons and the rationale for that very consistent and very much to the amendment but I do appreciate Senator Nichol's impatience and will tolerate that as I usually do. The bottom line here seems very simple, however, that since we are in this session and since those proposals have come to us, we basically have abrogated our responsibility and this is an opportunity to say that we recognize what we ought to be doing even if we didn't have the guts to do it. Now, frankly, I have supported