

SENATOR WARNER: The time restraints are a disadvantage for all of us, Senator Koch. I would agree with that. The suggestion that I am making is more of one of consideration of time. We could not make decisions either until Mr. Leuenberger's report yesterday and his report did revise at least my thinking, and I am assuming what we will have done by noon, I am hopeful, is that we will have what the committee will recommend so you will know that this afternoon. It will be available this afternoon. You will know the basis of shortfall that we are thinking of and you will then have the opportunity to prepare amendments at least to that. What I have suggested does not provide the opportunity to attempt to change the bill three times but only twice, once on Select File and once on Final Reading. For a practical matter we are talking about one time which is Select File. But to the extent of information of, you know, that would be the sequence to which it can be offered and the practical effect, I am sure there is no way in view of the fact that we still have not finalized anything in the committee in terms of where amendments can be drafted, where drafting amendments to an appropriation bill is somewhat different than some bills, it has to be technically correct. Frankly the staff needs at least a half a day to be assured of that. But the basis of the decisions on which those amendments will be drafted would be available I would hope right after lunch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Senator Warner. I just want to remind the body, and I understand the difficult situation of Senator Warner and the committee, I am not being critical of that, but I am being somewhat critical of the procedure. We put this bill on Select File. Immediately you are going to change the number of votes it takes to amend. Right now? Even on General File if I want to amend the bill? It is going to take 25 votes? Okay, then that is clarified. No exception. Now I will offer one other suggestion. Why not have the committee give us the amendments and why not recess until about three o'clock this afternoon and why not discuss the bill on General File? I don't see such great emergency if we don't get out of here until next week sometime. That might be good for us. But I know some of you have to do a little harvesting, I am talking to Senator Warner more than anyone else. But the point I am trying to make is the State Board of Equalization could meet next Monday and face up to the task that properly is given to them under constitutional law and maybe they would help us with a little bit of guidance as to what they think since the Governor now and his staff has all the figures of the shortfall. Maybe it is time they face up to the kinds of tax rates that may be needed instead of the Legislature always being the whipping dog. And we have been. We were here last November. And I am going to get something else off my chest while I am at this microphone, I said last April when I gave the thirty-third vote on two different occasions, I didn't have to give it, that I might regret that vote, and I am regretting it right now because all the information came out in my district was the big spender voted to increase taxes 20.8%. By the same token, the Chief Executive didn't come into my district and try to save me.