

as individual senators to investigate a problem. What has happened is that Senator Beutler has run into some bureaucratic snafues. He has not been treated with the courtesy and respect that he ought to be treated with and I think that is most unfortunate. But here is where the bad precedent comes. It seems to me that if we as a body then decide to react to the treatment afforded one of our state senators by penalizing the bureaucrats, the administration, in cutting their appropriations we have established a precedent for doing that with any investigation that is conducted by any individual members without going through the regular process, which I think would be this. When an individual member concludes that something smells in a state agency, the appropriate dynamic is during the next legislative session to change the practices in that state agency through appropriate legislation. To have a public hearing on what that individual found to be wrong. To allow that state agency to respond, to allow the public to respond and then for the body to take its collective action and to exercise its collective wisdom. I believe it to be an incorrect practice, however, for us to short circuit that process and simply extract money from any state agency, whether it be the NEOC or any other agency because a senator who was conducting an investigation was not treated properly, not treated with the appropriate amount of respect, not given the information that he asked for and genuinely wanted and in fact what is being done is we are simply responding to the way Senator Beutler was treated.

SENATOR LAMB: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think maybe the single most difficult thing I had to learn when I came to the Legislature was you got to know when to hold them and you got to know when to fold them. I used to always have a better idea, particularly my first few years, I could improve everything, an amendment here and a little change there. I guess if I have learned one thing it is that when you get something put together there is a time to quit tinkering and quit playing with it. You start unraveling things and they do unravel in here and they can go on and completely end up opposite what you intended. Now I personally have got deep reservations about whether this whole program, this whole plan, this whole concept is even going to work. If I had my choice we'd do this tax on services, we would make adjustments, we would meet the problem in completely different ways. That is not the direction we have chosen to go. We have chosen this direction, the package has been put together by the Appropriations Committee, I think it is time for us to say, it is time to fold them and advance the bill, quit tampering, quit pulling the strings, send it on. That is not to say that I disagree with what Senator Beutler is doing at all. Not to say that I disagree with what Senator Schmit was talking about on the state employees. It is just that you do one of those it is going to unravel and I think it is time to say stop, advance the bill, see how she works, and if it is wrong we will find out about it soon enough in January but you are not going to change it dramatically with any more amendments at this point. What you will do is jeopardize the entire package. I would say, lets vote them all down, get on with it, advance the bill and hope it all works.