

it's going to cost us to do some things that we're doing. We're going to start facing that drastically in the next 25 days. Perhaps this is the time to start. We have a rough draft for a budget almost completed and it's just what everyone is suspecting. It's going to be just as difficult to make the decisions this year as it has been the last two years. And I think we just as well start out with the fact that if we're going to increase spending however good, however noble the cause, it's going to cost some money and this may well be the first harbinger of what's going to happen as we try to find the money to fund some of these very good issues. So I am going...inclined to...I'll leave it, let's face it straight up. What we're doing is going to cost three cents and if it's not going to come out of the General Fund, then we're going to have to take it out by raising taxes. So I guess I would urge you to look at it that way, in addition to the points that Senator Warner made, that way this is very serious business as you extend bonding out for 20 years. We need sources of funding for these. They ought to be dependable. I guess part of it would go back to my original proposition that I don't think that we ought to be dividing or spreading the cigarette tax income that much further. So I would urge you to support the three cent increase at this time. If, admittedly, there is more time to consider this again, I will tell Senator Landis that I could probably love his bill a little bit more if this funding was in it but let us recognize it for what it is at the present time, it's a \$4.5 million drag on the General Fund. Money will have to come from somewhere and let's face it for what it is and replace that with an additional three cent tax on our cigarettes. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Wehrbein amendment to LB 683. Those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the Wehrbein amendment. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 19 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wehrbein's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion fails. Next order of business.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to amend the bill. (The Warner amendment appears on page 1700 of the Legislative Journal.)