

allows also up to a maximum of 7.5 percent which would go in the base if that occurs. You know, there's nothing new about an agency, that's a code agency, employees feeling some restraint on what they can talk to people. I can remember in the middle seventies when I used to meet with one or two employees of that department trying to understand how the revenue projections, and we met at night and we met someplace where I was protecting that individual's job and all I was trying to do was to get some idea of how revenue projections were arrived at, because I annually wrote a letter to then Bill Peters who was Tax Commissioner, who always provided a response but never an answer. And so that's not new. And I, you know, we may as well call it what it is, this is a resolution which one of the candidates for Governor apparently raised an issue and it's attempted to be elevated by a resolution. I have amendments for it too which I noticed one of the candidates for Governor had taken a strong position against state lotteries which, certainly, I agree with and I thought I might like to add that amendment to this to show at least legislative concurrence of a candidate who was opposed to lotteries, which happens to be the Mayor of the City of Lincoln, but I thought maybe we could do that too if we're going to get into the act of putting in a resolution as every little political issue comes along in the course of a campaign. I would hope we do not get into that basis of conduct but I suppose it's also unavoidable. Every news story I read prior to the session indicated that one could anticipate that. The fact that someone may have their job threatened because they didn't fully conform with...with whatever the governing board was...or the ruling source of some issue, that brings to mind the Board of Regents, as I recall, where they had a little problem with one of their employees and apparently felt the way to resolve it was to fire the individual. So I can understand, certainly, the concern that if an employee of state government expresses their personal opinion, that it can be hazardous and it always has been, I suppose always will be with code agencies, and...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...and others. But I would think that if, in fact, this is some sort of a legitimate issue, which, obviously, it's a partisan political issue, but if it was, then the proper way to review it is in depth and find out exactly what it is and I would support the motion at this point to go to a Reference...to refer it to the Reference Committee for study by an appropriate committee.