

introduction, you will know how serious I am. I think what I'm doing is trying to look at items that are absolutely necessary to the function of state government. And I'm saying that...I have...and I said in my opening I have absolutely no quarrel with the ombudsman, I think they do outstanding work. I have had very good results with them, but I'm looking at this from the standpoint what do the taxpayers of this state expect us to do? What do they expect us to do?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I appreciate that, Senator Dierks, but if, as Senator Warner suggested, this is an intent only piece of legislation that what do you actually want to accomplish with this? Do you want just to have a discussion this afternoon? Because, frankly, Senator Dierks, my constituents are calling and they're upset because we're not doing anything on the floor of this Legislature. We sit and we talk and we talk and we talk and we've done it for days and weeks and we did it in the special session and we did it last...last time in the regular session. I want to know what you hope to accomplish with this?

SENATOR DIERKS: I'm sorry, I don't really...if you want to get angry, why go ahead, I can handle that. But I think what I...I think I explained it well enough to you to begin with that I do intend that we discuss this issue. I think that as far as I'm concerned we can use this amendment to substitute for the property tax dilemma that we're in and we won't have to do...we won't have to worry about whether the people in the state accept the constitutional amendment or not. They will because there's no taxing...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You are, Senator Dierks,...

SENATOR DIERKS: ...there's no taxing involved with this.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Excuse me, I'm sorry if my...if my feelings are showing a little bit here this afternoon, but you know that we're under a deadline and you know that if we're going to do this, we almost have to do it this afternoon. We're going to cut all of these programs this afternoon? Is that...is that a realistic expectation?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, let me put it this way. It wouldn't matter whether we're doing mine or Senator Schmit's, we'll still be taking the time. I think this is a viable alternative that we wanted to talk about.