

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WARNER: As I was listening to your question, did I understand that had the Revenue Committee put out the reduction in income tax bill that the Appropriations Committee then would have taken that into account and reduced the revenue? 'Cause it's still alive. I can call a meeting and I don't know if there'll be five votes, but I'm certainly willing to make the effort to find out.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: No, Senator, I'm not...I'm not indicating that that automatically would have happened. What I was trying to indicate, that there would be no reason for the Appropriations Committee...I was asking the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee if there was any reason that we would account for that given the fact that the bill was still in committee.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, and that's probably what I understood, that there was no reason. I thought if you needed motivation...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: As you know, Senator, as you know, Senator Warner, I was in support, indicated my support for the Governor's income tax plan, so I would be supportive of it. Obviously, I can't speak for the balance of the Rev...or of the Appropriations Committee as I also supported a more targeted income tax cut relative to health insurance premiums by self-employed individuals.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, I'm not sure where we're going with this, but...and I don't know which is the chicken and the egg, but if we need to reduce revenue for motivation to reduce budget, we were kind of holding back to see what the appropriation was and we didn't want to short the budget, but, gosh, if it works the other way we...I, you know, I have no idea what the vote would be, but I certainly would be, you know, willing to look at that. And I guess if I was going to talk about the budget at all, I have a very genuine concern that we have very little going into the reserve, the likelihood of a drouth and a lot of other things coming, that it may well be that we're going to have to