

just also, although I can't echo the figures, the comments of Senator Warner on the spending, I, too, intend to vote for all three bills.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Senator Withem put the motion up to talk through some of the coming bills as well, and I want to take this opportunity to explain why LB 741 isn't up on the agenda. That's the alcohol tax bill. When we advanced the bill, it was on the understanding that it would be pursued if necessary to help with the budget situation that we're in. And after discussions with Senator Moore and looking over the status of things as it evolved with the budget, at this point it doesn't look as though we need to pass that bill to balance the budget to have the reserve. And so rather than have it come back and pass a tax that we don't necessarily need this year, although there's a great deal of concern about next year, the thought was that we'll just hold the bill until next session and have it there should again we need the revenues pending what happens over the inter . . . The one caveat would be, of course, if things develop in the next few days where we might have a revenue need unexpectedly, that may come back on the agenda, say, the last day or something, but I don't anticipate that at all. I think the alcohol tax is going to sit there until next year and then we'll see where we are next session. But I just wanted to explain to all of you there was never any intent to pass it unless it's necessary to balance the budget. And at this point it doesn't look like it's necessary so there's no reason for us to pursue it at this time.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Robinson.

**SENATOR ROBINSON:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Warner made some comments; and, Senator Warner, I want you to know that in compiling these figures the number of employees that came to the state government from counties were not counted in this number. So I just wanted to clarify that. I'm sorry I didn't do that to begin with. Now for that year there were other employees other than the county employees and they are added into this figure. And I'm not pointing fingers at anyone. I've been here two years but I just wanted to let people know what the situation is in state government. Whether we like it or not, these are valid figures. And...but I did want to make that one clarification. There are the county