

it was made, it was written in water. That's about what happens. I think that we should assume our responsibility. What difference does it make if the Board of Equalization raises the tax or the Legislature if it can be shown that action by the Legislature necessitated the increase? The public doesn't make those fine distinctions. They don't even know what the Board of Equalization is. By virtue of the fact that LB 59 gives a directive to the Board of Equalization, should they raise the tax to any level, it's going to be clear in the mind to the public, although not completely accurate, that the Legislature passed a bill ordering them to raise the tax. Such being the case, those Republicans who think the Governor is going to be in trouble will be stymied because the Legislature made the Governor do it. Those who think the other side will get the responsibility or the blame will be stymied for the same reason. The Legislature is the devil; everything bad that happens in the State is done by the Legislature, even if, in fact, it's done by somebody else. I think the one good thing the Legislature can do at the tail end of this session to salvage some dignity, a scrap of integrity, is to at least set the tax rate to pay for what we have spent. We have done it. I'm being nice and editorial by saying we because a lot of the mess that's in these bills, I'm opposed to but since we have a collective responsibility, I can say we. We have appropriated or called for certain amounts of money to be spent. We have dealt with the refund or the amount of money the State is going to take in. Now to properly adjust the machine that we have been tinkering with, why can we not set the tax because, now I'm going to get out of this, you all are cowards, moral cowards, or of worse, tricksters. I don't know whether it's worse to be a coward or a trickster. The only way to be neither of those is to assume our responsibility. If we have children at home, we have very unkind things to say to them if they don't assume the responsibilities we impose on them. When it comes to children in the classroom, students at the University, the Board of Regents, the coaches of the football team, the professors, everybody else can be told what their responsibilities and duties are by the Legislature. Then when it comes to a legislative responsibility, the Legislature cuts and runs.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I hope you will return this bill and Mr. Chairman, in the interest of trying to be accommodating also, I'm going to give that 45 seconds I may have left to the Legislature for frittering away at a later point.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The motion is the, to return LB 59 to Select File for a specific amendment. Senator Chambers. We are...