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restate the same policy that we have made year after year after year. On the sales tax credit for example, we have now determined that \$28....

SENATOR MARSH: Excuse me, Senator Beutler, the House still is under Call. Senator Reutzel. The Call is raised. Please continue, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: On the sales tax credit for example, we now have established a policy that \$28 is the appropriate amount. Next year without the Legislature taking any further action, that policy will be seriously undermined and next year we will come back in with another bill like this because everybody is going to want to increase the credit again and the year after we will come in again and the year after we will come in again, when we all know we are going to adjust it in accordance with the rise in prices. What I am saying is, let's make a policy decision and let's retain that policy decision until we see fit to change the policy decision itself. Let's not let inflation change our policy for us and I realize that people are against indexing some distinctions. I think there are a number of areas where indexing is not all that important or crucial. Things can go a few years without harming anybody very seriously. Jurisdictional amount of courts, the cost of filing fees, thing like this, no great harm is going to occur if we don't adjust those for a few years. The main argument against indexing, of course, has to do with those items that have a tremendous effect or influence on the cost of government, and for that reason we do not and I would not approve of indexing the salaries of public employees for example. That is a policy decision that should be made every year because of the enormous impact on the economy. We don't index the government programs that we appropriate for because each year again we should come back and determine what is appropriate for a number of reasons, but I think this is a particular area where indexing is important and appropriate. It is important because it affects every family in this state. It is especially important because it affects poor people and I think if we are all approaching this honestly that we know we are going to come back in and make this same policy decision next year and the year after, and sometimes we get in disputes with regard to whether we are going to have a credit or whether we are going to eliminate the sales tax on food, and last year because we were in the middle of this dispute the taxpayers of the state got no increase in the credit at all. That to me is an additional reason for indexing it. Then if we are going to sit here and dispute the proper method of handling this problem, at least in the meantime the taxpayer does not suffer.

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