

the same premium taxes that we collect from all other insurers. To do otherwise is to tilt the playing field and to give one kind of insurance company a pricing edge, compared to all others. On Select File I would suggest that we examine LB 508. I haven't had the time to draw an appropriate amendment. I'll tell you now it's coming.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I agree with Senator Landis. Since he's going to try to do something on Select File, I won't try to hinder this bill either. I want you all to see how gracious and cooperative I am this morning at this point. But as Senator Landis mentioned, if they are going to compete for business that other insurance companies would have the opportunity to obtain, what it is doing is taking from those companies that are going to pay the tax business and putting it into these companies that don't pay it. Now I can see where the state might give consideration to those who are involved in charitable operations. But the state itself is not a charitable operation. So down here as representatives of the public interest, we have to consider the types of issues that have been raised by Senator Landis in his discussion. I am in accord with him. If he offers an amendment, I will support it. If he doesn't, I would have to do it myself.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Beyer. Can we have the conversation level down a little bit, please. (Gavel.) Senator Beyer.

SENATOR BEYER: Are there other lights, Mr. Speaker?

PRESIDENT: There are none. If you want to consider this closing, you may.

SENATOR BEYER: Okay. This bill, when it was brought to me, the people that brought it in were advised that this possibility could be arisen (sic). It has arisen before in the premium tax. As the two previous speakers stated, evidently people seem to think that they have an edge, but they do not. The rates are basically the same. Their money is put back in the local communities, through branches of people that are members of these associations. Their profits, since they are nonprofit, go back into the communities in ways that the state cannot put it back in.