

This bill will probably raise, after the amendments, I would suppose \$22 million which we will need this year to make certain that the homestead exemption can get funded, or if that's not palatable to you, to increase our reserve. But in any event, this bill, if passed, and if we stick to our last on the budget bills will result in no increase in tax rates and that is important thing I think for this Legislature. With that I would offer the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, this is a fairly significant bill and I would just like to outline a few reasons why I will oppose the bill. You know, what are we trying to do? What are we trying to do? We are looking for sources of income that people won't notice. We are looking for increases in taxes where people will not notice they are being taxed. Now people will certainly notice they are being taxed if the current rates go up. If the current rates increase from the current 3 1/2 percent and 19 percent, people will notice that. So we need more spending for governmental purposes, so we are looking around for so-called loopholes. Well, loopholes have a tendency to appear only when we need increased revenue. Now this bill does not tax energy for farm uses but now we are going to tax energy for business uses. So I predict that the next so-called loophole will be taxing energy for farm uses. We kind of chase these dogs around as we need them. So how are we going to resist temptation to increase spending. We can only resist it by allowing the tax rates to be high enough to afford that resistance to the tax rates. When the tax rates get to a certain point, and I don't know what that point is, then the people say that is enough. We don't need any more taxes. We don't want to increase our tax rates. So the Legislature tries to take an easy way out and says we are going to close so-called loopholes so the people out there won't notice they are being taxed more and we are spending more. I say if we need to spend more money, let those tax rates fall where they may. Let the tax rates go up if that is required. Then the people out there will recognize that the Legislature is spending more money. The people out there will recognize that they should be contacting the members of the Legislature and indicating that they do not want increased taxes and they do not want increased spending. So I oppose the bill on that basis, that if you want to spend more money, let's increase the tax