

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Mr. Speaker, the assumption is, I guess, that we need to pass this bill if there is going to be a tax increase. As I understand it, if there is not going to be a tax increase, we do not need a bill. Is that correct?

SPEAKER NICHOL: That is correct. However, at this time I don't know...think you would know whether you would need it...need the bill or not, but I wanted to have it there in case we need it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Mr. Speaker, my bracketing motion proposes that it be bracketed until next Tuesday. As I understand our rules, it could be taken next Tuesday and dealt with in sufficient time in order to increase the taxes if that is what the Legislature wants to do. However, however, I am not at all convinced that we need to raise the taxes and to deliver the message to the public that we are advancing a tax increase bill and we are still sitting here deliberating on our budget is completely absolutely the wrong message, because what we are really saying is that now you see the truth, now you see what we are really doing. Aren't we approaching the budget honestly? Aren't we trying to think of some more tax cuts or some more expenditure cuts? I think that we are. I think that we are, not only that we are really looking at it honestly but that we can do it. And I think it is a big mistake to put the horse before the cart and to start advancing a bill that is increasing the tax rates when we haven't even finished the budget process yet. So I hope that you will lay this bill aside until next Tuesday, and if at that point in time it is necessary and by that point in time you will know if it is necessary, in fact, after today and tomorrow we'll...after today, if not tomorrow, we will know, basically, where we are and at that point in time we can move on it. But I see the advancement of this bill at this time as being completely the wrong message to the public, completely the wrong message. I hope you will consider bracketing it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely. I may not have these exactly right but I think I do. Some lights have come on since the bracketing motion was made. But, Senator Wesely, you had your light on before? Did you wish to speak to the bracketing motion? Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, to