

conversation level down, please. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp, and then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I was hoping that it wouldn't take a great deal of time just like Senator Johnson said. However, this is a complicated matter and I think at some point you almost have to go on the basis of kind of a credibility based on past records. So I would like to give you, with respect to special new taxes, a record. The lodging tax, the litter tax, the ton mile, train mile tax which is building your overpasses across the state, the liquor taxes, the last about eight or ten years. LB 619, sponsored by Senator Carsten and myself and our predictions that the state was going to be liable for 30, or 40, or 50 million in refunds based upon previous laws being unconstitutional. In the case of the lodging, the litter, the ton mile, the liquor, in every single case they were close contests on the floor, and in every single case the amounts I said the issue or bill would raise were raised and more than that was raised in every single case, significantly. Not only that, but in every single case the cost the Revenue Department projected for collecting that tax were completely false, out of line, inaccurate, whatever you want to use. I used as an example the other day the litter tax where their estimates for collection were between 400 and 700 percent in error. Okay. Two other taxes I remember opposing, LB 816, which shifted money from the rurals but which the rural senators put the key votes on to pass because they had inaccurate figures from the Revenue Department and ended up destroying themselves and trapping themselves and losing millions; the railroad tax, the famous railroad tax, when we got the figures from the Revenue Department, they ended up being wrong. We had to come back and change them. All I am suggesting is on a credibility basis my record on special taxes has been pretty good. I'm telling you, based on that record, that 619 is not a bad law. The bankers don't necessarily like it, and that is the truth. LB 619, long-term, will raise more money than any formula being offered out here. But the Governor and the Revenue Department are determined to change the law. Despite the fact that we have a declining economy, banks closing, they want to extract some money. They went to the banking industry and said we want this amount of money. The banking industry has offered a proposal. They were in complete disagreement. They are now in complete agreement on this particular proposal. This particular proposal,