

Reading, you still have an option to vote for it today and leave it in a position so that it allows some flexibility in a very tight year. It may be what you wish to do two days from now. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner and after that Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. Like I told you before, I am committed to a no-tax-rate increase and we are in an awkward position. It is too bad that we didn't pass or have the appropriations bills passed last week so that we would be able to decide for sure. But I can see what is going to happen today. We are going to adopt this amendment, one percent state income tax increase, and then we will have \$30 million more for this coming fiscal year. So you know what we are going to do? We are going to go back and put all these things that we took out of the appropriation bills and we are going to put them back in again because we will have the money to pay for them. And, Senator Marsh, just a year ago I only paid 18 percent...or 19 percent state income tax. I think that was two years ago that we had the 20 percent increase. I have talked to some wage earners over the past few weeks and they told me especially in my district, Senator Hefner, we can't stand you withholding any more taxes from our pay check. We are being cut on our hours. We are not getting the hourly increase that we think we should have and here you are taxing us more. Here you are adding more onto our state income tax. And besides that, we have got a Social Security tax increase. And so I think we want to look at it very carefully. And if we do pass this, I have been assured by the Governor that he will veto it because he is committed to a no-tax-rate increase. And so I would urge you to vote against this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson and after that Senator Remmers.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, we have had a lot of conversation this afternoon about prudence and caution and prudence and caution dictate that we amend LB 539 to increase the income tax rate one percent and then advance the bill to Final Reading and then wait until Wednesday afternoon before we finally decide whether to support or oppose the tax rate