

increase. I am going to talk for just a few minutes about dollars, Senator Beutler. In 1981 Ronald Reagan goes to Congress and says to Congress, you cut those income taxes for those boys 25 percent and Congress did. Starting in '82, 5 percent went off in 1982, 10 percent went off in 1983, 10 percent went off in 1984. We have had a 25 percent decrease in federal income tax liability in three years. You know what the state income tax rate was like, Senator Beutler, in 1982? Eighteen percent. Eighteen percent was the state tax liability in 1982. Okay, it is 19 percent today. I figure that is about, oh, about a 6 percent increase in our tax rate, at the same time that our tax base is cut 25 percent. We have increased the rate 6 percent while our base is cut 25 percent and I have got a whole bunch of conservative senators in here saying, oh boy, we can't increase the tax rate. It is a crime. It is a darn crime to watch the federal government whittle away at the base and we eek out a miserable six percent increase in the rate and that is what we did in a three-year time period. Now, I say simply speaking you increase the income tax rate today, you move the bill to Final Reading and then you make your final decision. I may give the same kind of an impassioned speech but I won't have the chance to give the speech unless you amend the bill and put it on Final Reading. I am asking for some honesty in here and the honesty is to take a look at what has happened to our tax base. Twenty-five percent decrease in three years time in the tax base by virtue of those federal tax cuts and we have had one six percent increase in the rate. Now come on, another percentage increase, another six percent increase ain't anything.

PRESIDENT: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Warner's amendment for the increase in the income tax. I think that Senator Johnson just made a very good point that many of us have forgotten. Our base has been cut and I don't think the people have really ever given that any consideration. Also, an income tax is paid by those who are making a profit and we have...I think that we can still defeat this bill in the Final Reading if we don't need it. But I think it would be a mistake to cut it off now. I think we should leave it there. I just see an amendment that was passed around here awhile ago to 713 for \$8.5 million what we owe. The courts