

lowest income per capita of all the 49 districts, I cannot vote for it. Senator Chambers represents the lowest income per capita, yet he's for increasing the income tax. In my district it's 50-50, half the people pay no tax because they are on Social Security and pensions. The other half are wage earners. I just want to make it clear you've got August if you want to raise the income tax and remember, there is no guarantee the federal government won't increase the income tax. And think of those poor devils that are going to get hit at the end of the year that thought they were having enough withheld and then at the end of the year they find out that for the first few months they didn't have enough withheld because this bill won't go into effect until after we adjourn. So Donna Karnes won't get the notices out to their employers to withhold more. I don't know what the reason is. Like I say, I'm not in on the deal, but I'm voting against it and I would urge the rest of the body, once more for the third time, to vote on this bill today and I urge you to vote against the increase in income tax because that's the message we've been getting from the people. Cut the budget and don't raise the taxes and when you look at the list that the Appropriations Committee had...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...and much more of the budget could have been cut and I myself said I would go for a 2 percent across the board cut and probably 70 to 75 percent of the Appropriations Committee's budget cuts, but we got cut off at the pass and didn't get to even consider any more cuts. Thank you, senators, for listening.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, do you wish to speak?

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, we seem to be going round and round and round and I think at some point we should get off and maybe this is the point. But I think the majority of the people in this Legislature do not want an increase in tax rates. So if we don't want an increase in tax rates, the issue is very simple. Vote against this amendment. Vote against this amendment as many times as it comes around. For those of you have not been in the Legislature for many years, or before this year, you may be wondering about the procedure. Let me tell you that this is not unusual. We have chaos toward the end of the session