

sales tax restrictions on state government that almost got on the ballot a couple of years ago and are being threatened now frighten me. They frighten me because of the extent to which it will put the Legislature and the executive branch and state government as a whole in a straitjacket. And I know we are concerned about Initiative 300 and the problems that that potentially is going to create if literally read and literally enforced in many parts of the state, but if this income and sales tax measure that is being talked about now were to be put on a ballot and were to be adopted because nobody likes to see his or her taxes raised because there is always going to be a giant vote out there to keep taxes down no matter what the merits of the issue are, then we are really going to be in trouble. And I think that this Legislature, particularly with Governor Kerrey and particularly with Governor Thone, the eight years I have been here has been very responsible in its taxation and its spending decisions. And I think that it would really not be appropriate to put us in the kind of straitjacket that the initiative that is now being talked about would put us in. That is just one example. And I think if we look at what has happened in California the last 10 years or the last 12 years, we can see that it is no idle threat. There are many, many ballot measures in California repeatedly. Professor Sittig's remarks that Senator Rupp has passed out I think are worthy of review by all of us. I would encourage you to read those remarks. I think he is right on the mark and I would encourage the advancement of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rupp, then Senator Abboud.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Rupp. Members of the Legislature, I think Senator Rupp has brought us a proposition here that deserves our favorable consideration and I say that most recently as a result of my experiences on the Initiative 300 Task Force which has been a challenge and has raised a lot of questions that normally I don't think we would have had to have dealt with, as was pointed out by Senator Johnson and others on the committee had that amendment to the Constitution undergone the kind of scrutiny and the kind of debate that normally occurs here in the Legislature.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Scofield.