

money to me. And it seems like we've debated for hours on other types of programs in this area, that actually provide some pretty important services for far less than that amount of money. And so I am suggesting perhaps, Senator Johnson, you might want to...I don't know if you'd really need to have it passed this...at this point. I don't know exactly why we are rushing forward with the resolution at this moment. And perhaps if some of us had some better idea of what was going on and what was planned, and how that meshed into other interim studies, and how it meshed into our budget we might feel a lot more comfortable. So I am suggesting maybe we don't need to act on it today, and we could take a little time with it and see how the budget looks for next year, and feel more comfortable with the effort. I don't think anybody doubts we need to do a study on the tax structure. But it is just the figure and the size of the money that we are talking about that is a little scary to some of us.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem on the Johnson amendment.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I have a question I'd like to direct to Senator Johnson. I guess this is as appropriate a time as any. Senator Johnson, before I ask you to respond, let me kind of set the base for it. First of all, I see a lot of data coming across my desk each year, from the tax research council, from the Revenue Department, from lots of different entities that give us lots of factual data about the revenue situation in the state. That is point one. Point two, we in the body often seem like we are trying to search for absolute truth when we get stymied in here and we have difficulty resolving the political issues, we tend to want to hope that somewhere out there is an absolute answer to our question that we just haven't been able to find. My fear is we'll get done with this survey, though, and I guess I'm not quite as cynical as Senator Abboud is, but maybe almost as cynical as he is about this process, we'll get done with the study and there may be a conclusion that we need a sales tax on services. My guess is Walt Radcliffe will be retained by the same individuals, after this study is done, as he was...as those that retained him last summer, and he will be making the same arguments against it, that those that object to paying high property taxes, no matter what the study says, will continue to object to paying high property taxes. So my question, now that I've filibustered for most of the time, and you won't have any chance to respond maybe, the question is, what unanswered questions do you see out there, Senator Johnson, that it's worth