

SENATOR CARSTEN: There is an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk? Okay. Amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rod Johnson would move to amend the committee amendments. (R. Johnson amendment appears on page 1878 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, as the other speakers have preceded me in their statements as opposed to the sections, usually Sections 1 through 5, this amendment would strike those sections which deal with giving the tax commissioner the authority to adjust the rates. I, as the other two speakers have already indicated, oppose the policy shift that we are now about to discuss. I think it is inappropriate and I do not wish to delegate my power to the tax commissioner. I feel that we have the ability, in this Legislature, to make tax decisions. If we are going to make a policy shift, as we are discussing here, I would prefer that we do that by giving the authority back to the Board of Equalization. But to give it back to the...or to give it to the tax commissioner, I think, is inappropriate. I wanted to offer the amendment principally because I wanted the members of this Legislature to have an opportunity to discuss this particular provision of the bill, and basically decide for yourselves an all or nothing package as the way the bill is written now, sort of splitting the question here. I do...my amendment has no impact upon the adjustment of the income tax from 19 to 20 percent, that remains consistent in the bill. But my amendment does strike the provisions dealing with allowing the tax commissioner that authority. As the other speakers have already indicated, I will reiterate my particular concern. I do not feel this is an appropriate policy decision. I am opposed to it. I wanted to provide an opportunity for many of the senators who have equally expressed their opposition to this issue to vote on this particular provision, and in doing so I would move the amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay. Senator Warner, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR WARNER: Point of order.

SENATOR CARSTEN: State your point to the Chair, Senator Warner, please.