

blame, the old political scheme of the past. So you are going to have an automatic system, which I guess you want, and now you are going to have the titular head of that who really has no choice by virtue of the way everything else worked. And where have we seen that before? I think it was called the Board of Equalization. So between now and final, I am not going to harass the bill any more, I made my points, I wish everybody would study it. It is a profound change. As Senator Johnson said, the whole system is a profound change. The question is whether you want to do it, and there are good arguments on both sides, but I do believe as I suggested that you are locking into a quantity of money that you want to protect rather than any system, and the quantity of money becomes the most important thing. You establish the base at a very high rate, from the highest...about the highest ever, and I just think you really ought to study this one, and once again I would point out it does not have the tax rate setting in the bill any more. Some people said, well, we have got to pass this because it has not the tax rate setting thing. That, as I understand it, has been moved to LB 539, and even though I may vote against LB 539 on Final, I do believe we ought to get it advanced as efficiently and quickly as possible today so we have that vehicle there.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, and then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to support Senator Goodrich's amendment. I think that Senator Warner in his remarks some time ago indicated that it was his opinion that the Tax Commissioner would probably have a hard time making a rate adjustment in the absence of some approval of that by the Governor and I suspect that is correct. So I see no reason for us not to say in our statute that the Tax Commissioner shall make that rate adjustment with the approval of the Governor, and again, it makes it pretty clear that while the adjustment is relatively mechanical in nature, it still is subjected, I suppose, in the last analysis to that final accountability in the executive branch. So I think the amendment is an appropriate amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I would like to ask Senator Goodrich a very ridiculous question.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay.