be done with LB 31 is it has to be put in the proper form so it can carry the income tax increase, and that is what the Warner amendment does do. Let me talk for just a few minutes though why I happen to support the income tax rate as the proper way to go as opposed to the sales tax rate. Number one, number one, a 4 percent sales tax rate January 1, 1987 is a permanent rate, it is a permanent rate. When we add a city sales tax rate of 1.5 percent to that that makes the effective rate in this state 5.5 percent. When we add the LB 662 sales tax rate to that it makes the effective tax rate in this state 6.5 percent. Now if the state is at 6.5 percent, which it can very well be on January 1, 1987, we will now have the highest sales tax rate in this region, we will have the highest sales tax rate in the region. I do not think that is a policy that we want to go. Number two, the income tax rate increase will generate as much money for this fiscal year as the half a cent, half a year sales tax rate does, same amount of money for this year. Number three, and this is really the important one, it is really an important one, the rural people, Senator Schmit, and Senator Lamb, and Senator Hefner, and Senator DeCamp, who are very concerned in their own area about what is happening to their own economy because it is becoming an increasingly poor area, poor people pay the sales tax. Middle income people pay the sales tax, and they pay it disproportionate, disproportionately to what the more affluent pay, they just do. Sales taxes have always been regarded as regressive in nature. Income taxes by the same token are progressive in nature. The more money a person has, the more money a person pays for government. Income taxes are truly based on ability to pay. Sales taxes are simply based on consumption levels, income taxes on ability to pay. The more money a person has, the more one contributes. Now over the last four years we have watched a very dramatic shift in our own society as to who is carrying the burdens of government. With the federal tax changes and the federal spending changes we are discovering, to our dismay, that the affluent and the fortunate in our society are carrying a lesser burden today, of government, than are the middle income people and the poor people. Poor people and middle income people today are carrying a far greater portion of government than the affluent are because of major federal changes that have occurred. A progressive Legislature, a body that is prepared to, in a sense, exact the cost of government from those most capable of affording it will look to the income tax and not to the sales tax. In a very pure, political, judicious sense the income tax is by far the fairer system to utilize. LB 31 takes care of our budget problems, does the same thing that LB 539, as amended,