

both measures over on to Final Reading so that we have a choice. You know it is pretty late here. It is almost eight o'clock and I don't know if we're all thinking through our options very clearly. But I don't think the headlines have to read we want both the sales and income tax rate. Clearly it is a choice between the two. But we don't necessarily need to make that choice now at eight o'clock on a couple of days left to go in the session. I truly would like to recommend, that without any commitment on your part, that some form of LB 31 be advanced and that you support this amendment. Let me add one last thing, if I could. Mr. President, could you bang a little bit there, I'd like to make one point, if you don't mind.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) May we have order in the Chamber so that Senator Wesely can feel he's being heard and that you may hear Senator Wesely. (Gavel.)

SENATOR WESELY: I know it's getting late. But let me make one point that I think we are forgetting. We do a lot of berating about the situation that we are in here. But if you would remember back to last fall when we met in special session, if you would remember back to the decision that we made on the budget and our feeling about the tax increase and income tax, you would remember that our sentiment was clear to go with an income tax increase that would not stop at the end of the year and would prepare for the problems we are now facing with the budget. And if the Governor had agreed and supported us in our efforts last fall, we wouldn't even be talking about a tax increase at this point. We would have in place the income tax, the level it had been, and at 20 percent we would have had the money to fund the budget. We wouldn't have to be going through this exercise. We would have an adequate reserve. We would not be back in the fall, and the different problems that we've been going through for several months would have been taken care of. We had some foresight in this body. We saw this day coming. And I think it is high time we recognize the fact that many of us were recognizing a day of reckoning months ago, supported an income tax increase, were not able to get that brought up in the special session, and now we are back here bashing away, trying to take what proper action needs to be taken with a lot of heat being applied to some of us up for election, some of us thinking about that down the road, and recognizing this is a very unpopular position to take. This isn't easy for some of you. I look at this sheet and I see 27 people voted for the advancement of that bill. And they stuck their neck out and they did it knowing that that is the right thing to do, knowing the