

headlines, knowing the vote count will be out there. I admire each and every one of you that did that. I think you did the right thing, I think you did the right thing last fall, and it is unfortunate that we have to be going through this exercise whatsoever at this point. We didn't have to be here. It could have been taken care of last fall, but here we are today, late in the hour, fighting over this issue when it didn't have to be fought whatsoever.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. President, there it goes. Mr. President and body, I strongly encourage you to support this amendment. I think income tax is by far the fairest way. And I am not only supporting it so we come to a decision tonight and have two tax bills, but I will support this one all the way through.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to correct Senator Wesely on one statement. He said there was an awful lot of heat being put on us in here. Senator Smith and I have been sitting here freezing all day. I wish we had some of that heat. My fear is if we advance this bill then we will have increased the income tax, and we will have increased the sales tax. I remember watching, years ago, Senator Terry Carpenter talking about, right on this legislative floor, he said it out loud, that he'd made a million dollars and paid no state income tax, and he had done it legally and legitimately with all the tax loopholes. I don't know as the income tax is fair to everybody. I know that the richer you get, you also get more deductions. We have individuals in businesses that become corporations so that they can get better tax deductions. But the common wage earner that has it taken out of his salary, he has no choice but to pay it, he doesn't get those special deductions. I think the body, having voted to increase the sales tax a half a percent, I could not vote, and I did not vote for the sales tax increase, but I certainly wouldn't want to take a chance on advancing both a sales and an income tax. I'd like to ask Senator Vard Johnson a question, if he would yield, and if he knows the answer. Senator Vard Johnson, how much does the state pay retailers to collect the sales tax?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well the state pays the small retailers, who collect less than \$5,000 per month in sales taxes, they get to keep 3 percent of what they collect.