

SENATOR HIGGINS: I introduced it the first year I was here and the Revenue Committee killed it. Thank you, Senator.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

PRESIDENT: There are four lights on. Do I see five hands for calling the question? I do. Question is, shall the debate close? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Motion is to cease debate on the Warner amendment to LB 31. Please record your vote. The motion is to cease debate. If you wish for the debate to close please record your vote aye, if you wish it not to close record nay. The motion is to cease debate on the Warner amendment to LE 31. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk. Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there is a news conference coming on in five minutes and I'm sure that the members will want to watch, so if we can handle this amendment and this bill in the next five minutes that would be remarkable, but I hope we can do that. Some people have already made their minds up. Sales tax increase, no income tax increase. Some have done that. Others say I'd still like to reflect carefully on the issue and have a final decision two days from now, and that is the way it should be. We should have a final decision as to which route we pursue two days from now. The income tax change represents a continuation of the 20 percent rate. It represents maintenance of hold harmless from federal changes. Mind you the state tax rate should be 21 percent, it should be 21 percent to make up for lost ground from 1981 forward. If we allow the rate to fall to 19 percent, we continue to lose ground to the kind of erosions on our tax base that the federal government has made. The income tax change again reflects the policy of taxing those with the ability to pay the most to finance government and affecting those with the least ability to pay the least. That is a very appropriate social and tax policy for every government to have, for every government to have. This income tax change generates the same number of dollars that the sales tax change in LB 539 generates. It is a responsible piece of legislation. I would ask for the amendment and then the advancement of Senator