

those. We've all done it. We can all do it, but in January, in January you are going to have to face a different kind of scenario. Receipts will continue to decline. Revenue will not be what they were projected to be, barring an act of God, and the clamor will continue to increase. I would ask you to do one thing. You know, there are some of us who righteously and indignantly talk about vote trading and so forth, kind of interesting to take a look at the switch in votes on the cigarette tax. I don't know if what happened was what Senator Vard Johnson said happened. It might have, could have, maybe not. Maybe the change at heart was just something that happened momentarily like that. I have changed my mind. I may change it again. I'm sure I will. There is nothing wrong with that.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But the point I want to make is this, ladies and gentlemen, that not any one of us, notwithstanding age, experience, inexperience, anything else has any better right to indicate that a certain program is sacred than does any other individual member of this body. And so when the dust has settled and we will have preserved LB 35 and we go back home and we take the proper accolades or tongue lashings, depending upon the point of view, remember that in January you start all over again and at that point in time the real war begins because that's where you're going to have to make the tough decisions, not now. We're going to tiptoe out of this one. We're going to go back home and each one of us and most of you, all of you I hope, are good friends of mine, each one of us can probably justify what we're doing. But in January, ladies and gentlemen, with the economy are in a shambles around your feet, is when you're going to have to start making the tough decisions and at that point in time, let me tell you, it will be income that will determine what we're going to spend and not tax rates. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten and then Senators Beutler, Warner and Wesely.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise today, this afternoon, with an extreme amount of pride to be a member of this legislative body that doesn't turn its back when the chips are down, but faces them head-on. And I can't help but comment to the statesmanship,