

keep up with. I think that it is important that we recognize and that we give back to the Supreme Court something which they can chew on. And I think this, for years, has been an accepted fact that the Constitution has addressed automobiles in a certain manner and that we can continue to do so. One of the... another reason why I oppose the fee amendment is that I am adamantly opposed to the use of fees in state government for the purpose of raising money. I know that we do it. I have from time to time supported those. But the fee for the service of state government ought to cover the cost of that fee of that service and nothing more, and it should not be revenue producing because if it is, then we find ourselves being dishonest with the taxpayer in the manner of raising money. The fees ought to only cover the cost of doing the service and I do not like them to place a fee system in the statute for automobiles which could easily be confused with other types of fees. I don't think we should do it. It's kind of like the old story about calling the dog's tail a leg, it isn't going to be any different, it's still going to be the dog's tail. And we know that you cannot do indirectly what you cannot do directly and, therefore, we should not try that system here. If, in fact, if, in fact, the personal tax on automobiles is unconstitutional, then I predict the fee system would be unconstitutional because we know that it's going to raise about the same amount of bucks, here and there a little difference perhaps, but it's designed that way.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Are you saying to me and to the rest of this body that the members of the Supreme Court are not going to be able to see that? Of course, they are. Now, let me tell you something, hey, look, how many times do we have to slap your hands? How many times do we have to take you by the nose and lead you back to the basic principle we started out with? While you're not doing anything better, if you read the newspaper, the editorials and the funnies, pick up your Constitution, ladies and gentlemen, and read what is your responsibility, your responsibility. Our responsibility is to draft the tax statutes of this state. I said that in the committee yesterday. My good friend, the reporter here, did not put that in there. But that's the important thing. The Governor is the administrator, we have the weakest Governor of most states in the United States with the possible exception of Texas. He's an administrator. He