

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. Okay, thank you. I believe I can support this amendment because I had an amendment that would take everything off, and Senator Lamb had that amendment and it was defeated. So I believe this will be the second best way to go. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Wesely, did you wish to discuss this amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I would oppose the Warner amendment, not because it is unreasonable because it is, in fact, reasonable, but it does, as Senator Hall said, weaken our hand as we move forward to try and find a solution to the problem. Obviously, you would have more individuals concerned about the issue and trying to find a resolution to the issue, if you had more people with the potential of being taxed and wanting to not have that occur. But, at the same time, if we are talking about a short-term solution to the problem, I can understand we will definitely be short term because the Warner amendment would cause us to be in exactly the same position we are in right now a year from now, with an unconstitutional situation in which we have to try and find some solution. So if the idea is to go from one set of circumstances that are chaotic to another, we will do that, and out of that process, hopefully, we will find next session a longer term solution, where this session we are trying to find a short-term solution. So it is not totally inappropriate. It certainly is better than the Lamb amendment, which had us in the situation where nobody had any particular interest in moving forward with a long-term solution. Nevertheless, again, you provide greater exemptions, granted exemptions that currently exist that will be hard to get those people interested in coming back forward with some further refinements to the tax structure if they feel pretty secure in the fact that those exemptions will continue on into the future. So for that reason, I'd oppose the Warner amendment. Let me also note, a number of people have been concerned about my not voting on the last vote. For the record, I didn't vote because there was a provision of that proposal that affected the sales tax on long-distance telephone, and as a telephone employee, I didn't vote on it. You know, it would be nice if more people that had direct conflict of interest on some of these issues would similarly not take occasion to vote on some of these issues. I find it ironic that I didn't vote on that and, as a result of that, the amendment passed, while others who are