

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. No mas, no mas, no mas, no more, that is enough, we have I think amended the proposal to the point where we have really taken care of all the considerations that everybody has raised in terms of saying, hey, look, there are parts that we don't like, we can live with this. We did the utility tax. We have taken away the hammer provision as it has become, but we have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous with the amendment that Senator Schellpeper offers in terms of sales and income tax. Senator Lamb, I am ready to co-sponsor the bracket motion. Frankly, I raised the issue when we had the first, first committee hearing on this issue about whether we needed to do anything or not. And what you are getting into now is the amendments that say we really don't want to do anything. We really don't care, we really are going to let the homeowner, the regular taxpayer, the guy who brings home, you know, the minimum wage, pick up the tab again and again and again. And, frankly, I am not going to do that. I am not going to be a part of that in terms of sales and income tax because that is who is going to pick up the tab. You can argue that ultimately they will pick it up anyway, but, you know, at least when we do it through business, we put it in a disguise and we given them their medicine in their ice cream, and we don't necessarily beat them over the head with it, but this is a beat them over the head amendment. It says, look, you know, we don't care if business ever has to pay any taxes. We're not worried about whether the homeowner pays sales tax on their utilities. We don't want business to ever have to do it, and, as a matter of fact, we prefer that it come out of sales and income tax. We just want to pick your pocket one more time. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think that is totally irresponsible. The personal property tax has been paid by business. For a number of reasons, it is no longer available to be a source of revenue. You don't go back and say now we are going to pick it up on sales and income under the guise that, well, everybody ought to be responsible for this problem. That is ridiculous and so is this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Next speaker, Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. If it weren't so serious, I'd call this amendment a joke. This is just not an acceptable response to the situation that we find ourselves in at this point. As Senator Hall indicated, this is