

be on my time or not because I want to say some more, and my question is going to be, since you are adamantly opposed to sales and income tax, and, evidently, consider that totally unfair, I'd like the answer to the reverse side of that question, is why is the personal property tax, and I consider the depreciation, the surcharge on depreciation schedule, by the way, about the same as the personal property tax, it hits many of the same people with the same type of property. In essence, it is a sales...it is going to be a personal property tax, why is that fair? And that really is the question that I would ask you, if a sales and income tax is not fair, then why, on the other side, is personal property tax or, in this case, a surcharge on depreciation schedules fair? Simply having ownership of material and equipment you have to have to make a living, why is that necessarily more fair than taxing, using the sales and income tax, which everyone, 100 percent of, pays, regardless of where you are at. Every individual pays. It doesn't pick on any one particular person. Admittedly, it hits some a little harder than others as a percentage of their total income, I can't argue that. But in the same token, if you don't buy, you don't pay. If you don't earn, you don't pay. In contrast to any property tax, that is simply an additional charge to anything that you have to own for the purpose of earning a living. And as I come back to that, that is, basically, why I have come back to this issue is that for a year it ought not to be unfair to share this burden throughout the whole state. I do that knowing that this is a temporary tax. I accept that on a temporary basis, perhaps going to a sales and income tax on a permanent basis isn't fair. On the other hand, I would submit it might be fair, and I think a large amount of people, I won't necessarily say a majority, but a large amount of people that I have talked to in several districts with other senators across the districts and across the state agree with that. That is what they come forward with, and as I see the other taxes proposed, the utility tax, and those, I don't consider those any more fair than this sales and income tax is unfair. So if I have...how much time do I have left? I would give up...two minutes. Perhaps one of you would like to answer in two minutes, if you don't mind being put on the spot.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Wehrbein, I don't consider being put on the spot at all. The issue of whether sales or income tax is any fairer, I guess would not be