

some of the...some of the groups that were responsible for it. Now whether those groups were acting in the best interests of their stockholders, or I guess that was about it, I mean, they were acting in the best interests of their stockholders, they certainly weren't acting in the best interests of the state in challenging the constitutionality of those...of those laws. I think that the Legislature has to pick up the pieces of our shattered tax system and fashion a way to raise the revenue for the one-year period until...until the court has an opportunity to examine the uniformity clause one more time. It's an approach that I haven't been happy with from the beginning but I think that it's finally solidifying in this particular amendment. My belief is that if this amendment is not adopted that there will not be a consensus, there will not be 25 votes and we will not have a bill that will be enacted by this body this year and we will be looking at a special session. So I view this amendment as the last hope that a consensus will be reached and that this bill will be moved. And I urge that this body adopt the amendment and advance...advance the bill with this...these amendments in it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to generally support the amendment. I suspect this may be an amendment that will have 25 votes between those who have some appeal from the amendment and those who want to get off but is currently there, probably will add up to 25. There are a couple of provisions which I do want to mention because I have some concern about them at this point. I think Senator Hall indicated some of them. The one on utilities, of course, does not fit the...totally fit the criteria that we talked about generally early on and that was the policy of those who were benefiting from the exemption of personal property tax, would be those who ought to be taxed in order to provide the funding for 829 with all property exempt and, obviously, the utility tax, at least on the electricity portion, will be borne by the consumer of electricity and the general taxpayer to the extent that electrical cost affects the homeowner and proportionately to the total amount of generation and the residential person. So that there is that drawback. Secondly, I do have a concern on the surcharge that includes motor vehicles for the reason that actually they would be triple taxed. You pay the sales tax, plus the property tax, plus this which may be a bit too much and maybe we'll look at an amendment. We've talked before of