

SENATOR LANDIS: Last night I was in a meeting with Senator Wesely, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Bernard-Stevens had been there, Senator Moore was there. It was a meeting between two long-standing contending parties before the Legislature, the ophthalmologists and the optometrists. You know how hard that fight has gone on and how long it's gone on. End of the meeting the ophthalmologists and the optometrists agreed in principle to a solution to their problem, on one area. It's not done but it's there. Earlier this year, the rural bankers and the urban bankers, some of whom have not talked to each other or been in the same room for 15 years, found agreement on some bank structure issues. How does agreement come about? It's something that I study and I work at hard and try to help happen. It comes about by certain sets of behaviors and it's impeded by other sets of behaviors. Let me give you some examples of things that help find agreement. Howard Lamb standing up and saying, look, with certain changes I can agree to this idea. That's helpful. Jerry Warner saying, I would consider tax changes for 1063 that would make it more reasonable. That helps find agreement. Ed Schrock saying now is not the time to dig in our heels. That helps find agreement. Spence Morrissey saying, I will help build a system that works, helps find agreements. Let me tell you things that don't help us find agreements. I want you to say yes or no whether you will commit on your side of the issue now but it doesn't make any difference whether you say yes or no, I'm still a no. That doesn't help you find agreement. Rhetoric that Scotty Moore has pointed out by the Governor does not help find agreement and I think Scotty and Spence have been right to call on I'm helping the little guy and you guys aren't. That doesn't help us to find agreement. Saying I won't vote for any bill that has personal property tax in it doesn't help find agreement because it only announces what you won't do. What we need to do is to talk to each other about what we will do and see if we can find pieces from those things that we will consider in which we can find agreement. Now, let me tell you what I will do. Absent any specific commitment on some particular provision, I will help find a system that does not make a significant shift of taxes to a sector that is not now bearing those taxes heavily. Now, I'm... I also heard Howard say a very valuable thing. I'm looking for a nearly neutral system. His phrase was, I'm looking for something that's nearly neutral and here Howard Lamb and I can agree. If that's the principle, I will help look for a system that is nearly neutral. Can't be perfectly neutral, won't work for every taxpayer, but I