

strange to me, and I have a list of all the states that, various systems they use, almost to a person or almost to a state, each of them by their legislative body do have the legal and rightful authority to set the rates, establish the tax rate. I would think that based on our problems and our experience, particularly with the Board of Equalization, that we would want to assume those responsibilities and hopefully we could even do it in more of a nonpolitical situation as far as setting the rates than has been done so far because, Senator Koch, it couldn't be worse. It couldn't be worse in terms of the politics that have been in the rate setting in this state in the last six years. There is only one way and that is up. I think it is important that we do try to establish a system of setting the rates. I think that will do two things. The first thing I think it will do and the most important thing is that you are going to find that we will have stability of rates. I think you are really going to find that we will have stability of rates. Secondly, when the Legislature decides that there needs to be a shift in tax responsibilities, those rates can be established right there. The state aid issue, one of the major things, Senator Koch, was the fact that it was going to trigger the tax increase. The Board of Equalization and the Executive thought he would get some of the blame for it. If the members of the Legislature were prepared to vote for increases in those programs, the next logical step after the A bill is for us to establish the taxes necessary to take care of that situation. This is one of the few bills that I have here that is philosophical. Most of them end up being what is best for my district and what looks best in terms of the practicality, but the purpose of this bill, the purpose of this bill, and I think all of you know deep down...

SENATOR MARVEL: One minute, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: ...that the purpose and the sole purpose is to make sure that we understand the legislative prerogative is to set the taxes and certainly we ought to do that. I have made it for 1979 so it eases it as a political issue this year. I ask that the bill ultimately be advanced and I know there are subsequent amendments and I have some, too. So with those, Mr. President, I would close my remarks.

SENATOR MARVEL: What amendments do you have, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment is offered by Senator George. The amendment reads as follows: To amend LB 99, "The Legislature shall set the tax rate within the first two weeks of each session.

SENATOR BARNETT PRESIDING

SENATOR BARNETT: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. Chairman and members, I generally agree with Senator Lewis, and maybe we should change that, but if we do it as a body, I would like to see that we set a specific date or let's say the other way around I don't want us to collect all kinds of A bills and then total them up, then try to figure out how much we have to raise the income and sales tax. What I would like this body to