

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR HALL: April 8th is the 55th day of the 60-day session. In our rules, the Rule 8, Section (5) deals with the issue of appropriations bills and it says that the appropriations bills shall be passed no later than the 50th legislative day in a 60-day session. Subsection (6) of that same rule says that the Legislature's tax rate bill shall be passed no later than the 55th day in a 60-day session. What this proposal does is it puts LB 37 aside until we have taken care of the budget process, until we have passed the appropriations bills, until we have dealt with the issue of the tax rate proposals, should there be any, and at that point in time, after the 55th day, we would have an opportunity to deal with LB 37. Yesterday I believe, Senator Moore, we spent approximately \$10 million, rough estimate, maybe a little more, maybe a little less. I know one amendment that was \$8 million alone. That is going to have a hard impact, a big impact, a tremendous impact on the overall budget process. We're going to go back this afternoon to the budget bills, we will probably put more items into the budget, and that means that when you turn to the green sheet, and I don't often do this, but it jumped up I see today to approximately \$75 million, even though some folks like to look at the first left-hand column where oftentimes when we talk about the budgetary process and the voices raised, we get directed toward the right-hand column down there at the very bottom, and this might be the down and to the right mentality. It is okay, as long as there aren't numbers in parens, but, unfortunately, at this time we have a \$75 million shortfall that we would be looking at for the '96-97 biennium, and that is a big ticket item that we have to think about, not only in relation to this bill, but in relation to some of the measures that were passed yesterday. And I think short of the committee amendments, there were very few things that I supported adding into that budget yesterday. So Senator Moore knows that quite well. The process here that we are talking about is one of do we take a tax off of the books? Do we, basically, repeal a tax that is in place? And whether you believe we should or we should not, I think that there is a very legitimate question as to the issue of at what point in time do you do that, and I think it ought to be done at a proper point in time after the budget is put to bed, after we have raised taxes to take care of that budget, possibly to enough, if this is in the works, enough to allow for LB 37 to be repealed, the fertilizer tax to be repealed. But at this time, we are not at that point, and what