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the payment of the commission also makes the IRA non-competitive in that sense. So do not be deceived into believing that the premium tax has made the insurance IRA noncompetitive. That essentially is not true. What is happening here is we have a measure that will continue to chip away at the tax base that will clearly cost the state \$309,000 and, of course, it can cost it more as the use of insurance IRAs grow. It is hard to say what the future costs are ultimately going to be. I think it is an unwise and foolish expenditure of our tax dollars and this bill should be killed.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, this bill is becoming more famous than the water bill and more famous than the personal property tax bill. I rise to oppose the bill, Senator Johnson, with all due respect. I think part of the frustration of this bill has been in terms of referencing. We had that request early. I talked to the chairman. He told the committee that the reference was all right with him. Obviously, some didn't like it referenced that way. There was an attempt to rereference. That was rejected. The \$300,000 which would pay for the Blind and Disabled Program, Senator Johnson, I thought that was a class touch. It probably was to go to the heart of the matter to elicit sympathy to increase your voting percentage which is not going to help, I don't think. The question is in terms of the retirement accounts, and I have just asked that question. I said, does the money go directly to those with retirements and pensions? The answer I got was, yes. So what Senator Johnson wants to do I suppose, is start a hold the line on tax exemption and he wants to start with the group that can most afford it, of course, those that are trying to build up some kind of retirement system. I suspect there are other areas that, if Senator Johnson is keenly concerned about broadening the tax base rather than narrowing it, he can pick out more volatile type issues. Senator Johnson is going after a gnat with an elephant gun. Well if he is really concerned about the issue he ought to go after the elephants in terms of where the major exemptions are. I rise to oppose his motion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question or two if he might yield.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I will yield.

SENATOR RUMERY: Senator Johnson, are other savings accounts