

Chamber of Commerce by phone, a sizeable committee. One of the questions we discussed was the income tax as far as corporations are concerned and they are not, of course, all that happy about that increase and I can understand that. But I also said to them, "Now, now about raising the income tax?" And I said, "Have you ever thought what would happen?" I said, "I challenge you to get on the phone and call every tenth name in the Grand Island phone book and see whether people want us to increase the income tax from 15% to 16%." They all said, "Well 99% of them would vote against it." And that is the thing I think everyone in this Legislature needs to understand. Those of you...I'm not going to run for office again but I am just saying to you that those of you who are running this year, if you want to be elected, you'd better think twice before you recommend a 1% increase in income tax on this legislative floor. People are sick and tired of increased taxes. They want us to cut them. They want us to recognize the times. Farmers in this state of course, won't suffer because they aren't going to have income tax next year. I can understand why Cal and Senator Warner would be supporting this kind of a move. They are not going to have that kind of income but there are people who will and I submit to you that it is not a fair approach to the problem. We ought to leave it up to the normal channels that we have for doing this kind of thing and tighten our belts and cut the budgets accordingly.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely. Is Senator Wesely in the room?

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the amendment Senator Warner is offering contingent upon one thing, that we also support his motion to return this bill to committee. Senator Peterson talks about the fact that the people don't want higher taxes and I think that he is right. The people do not want higher taxes. The question is though, is this Legislature going to be up front about that issue or not and one way or another it appears to me that there is going to be an adjustment in taxes to deal with the revenue shortfall that we have. One way is to do it through fee increases and cigarette tax increases and other increases that are not as up front and obvious as the question before us today dealing with the personal income tax. In other words these taxes that are going to be raised are more hidden from the public's view and so they are easier to adjust and that is what is being proposed during this legislative session. So it appears to me that you can be honest and straightforward and say that there is a revenue shortfall and an adjustment has to be made or we can take another approach and say, well let's do it in a way that the public won't be as knowledgeable about and still take care of the problem that way. So