

enemy, just abandoned it and officially we stated it didn't matter in the first place. We wanted to prove that we could win. I really believe that is precisely what the 15 to 16 percent has become, a symbolic battle over whether we are going to increase or not increase tax rates, whether Charlie or Jerry, or whoever, Johnny, or whoever, is right or wrong, and the substance has all been lost out of it and we have forgotten to deal with what the needs are, what our bills are and raising cigarette tax or not doing it. Concentrate on those things. These things will all fall into line at the proper time. For those reasons at this point I am going to vote against making the symbolic gesture of saying, oh we are going to increase taxes because nobody...nobody in this room can say 16 percent is or isn't going to be adequate. Thirty-six hours ago nobody in this room, and probably only two people in this state would have been able to say, there is going to be 2000 Safeway employees unemployed. That is how rapidly things are developing. Let's worry right now about some of those fundamental things, what the needs are, some of the bills that have been put out, whether we are going to raise some additional revenue with cigarette tax, or whether we are going to raise some additional revenue with corporate tax, the rest will fall into line, whether through a Board of Equalization proceeding ultimately after we have determined our needs or whatever.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up. Before we proceed with the next speaker, underneath the south balcony as guests of Senator Nichol are Levi and Pearl Wentz from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Are you still in the room? If so, would you please hold up your hands so we can see where you are? The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment. I see this as sort of a hybrid thing. At present the State Board of Equalization sets the tax rates after the Legislature decides how much money should be spent, and with this amendment we are taking part of that authority but not all of it. I really don't see the purpose of this proposal because it will be obvious after the session is over, after we deal with the various revenue bills whether or not the income tax will have to be raised and by how much. So the whole purpose of this proceeding escapes me. I really don't think it is necessary. I don't think that it adds to the enlightenment of any of us, and it just sort of confuses the issue because it does limit