

there isn't such a mandate and that we, as a Legislature, should make it clear one way or the other whether or not it is good public policy to tax this transaction that I have described. A vote for the bill would, in effect, say to the Department of Revenue that this particular transaction shall not be taxed, that the sales tax shall not be imposed on the access charge. Senator Schmit at the time of the hearing had discussed some of the economic development problems with this tax and he had some good information at that time, and he, I am sure, has his light on and I would defer to him to talk a little bit more specifically about some of the economic problems in assessing this tax. Certainly assessing it in an ad hoc basis through the Department of Revenue, if we are going to increase taxes, especially a tax of this magnitude on industry and on the consumer, it ought to be done at the legislative level and not in the Department of Revenue. So I would at this point, I don't know whether Senator Schmit is next, but I would defer to him on the economic development part of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. There are only two minutes left, so we will proceed to the next speaker. Senator Schmit, you are third in line. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Excuse me, Senator Schmit, I will give you the full five minutes in just a few minutes. Senator Lamb, followed by Senator Hefner, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I certainly would not want to come ahead of my good friend Senator Schmit, except on this issue, we are on the same side and I hope that means that it is the correct side, Senator. I think it is important that we do pass this bill because it is an economic development issue, and some of these telemarketing companies are threatening and I assume they will move out of the state if this bill is not passed. However, the point I really want to make is that I have a number of contacts in regard to this bill and a lot of people are mixed up. They think this bill establishes the tax rather than establish the exemption, and so I would hope all those news media people would make that very clear, that this is not a tax bill, this is an untax bill, because a lot of people out there think that this is establishing the tax rather than taking the tax off. And I would, if I have some time left, I would give it to Senator Schmit, if he would like it.