

is a bad bill. It is not fair. It will not do what is purported by those who support it. One other thing. We should not take money out of the General Fund in this fashion.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It is one thing to erode the tax base by allowing these communities to levy their own sales taxes. I don't think that is a good idea, but since they have that power, make them use it because they asked for it, now they have got it. But to actually take money that the state has coming to it and subtract that from the General Fund is a very unwise fiscal move. So I think with what I have said this morning, I have established my credentials as a dyed-in-the-wool conservative, and since I have been told by the Election Commissioner that I have to register with one of the parties or an Independent because the New Alliance Party failed to get 5 percent of the overall vote, I think the interpretation of the statute is wrong, I am thinking about registering as a Republican, and since this morning I have established my credentials as a conservative, I should be welcomed with open arms. I am thinking about it, haven't decided yet, but I am considering it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, that sent the reporters scurrying to their teletypes, don't you think, "Chambers Becomes Republican." In the history of the theater you might recall in Greek drama a role of the Greek chorus which was a group of people who spoke with one voice this chant, over and over again, that had a great powerful effect, and all the wisdom of Greek drama was contained in these voices of the Greek chorus, and today we have had that same effect, the Appropriations Committee speaking as our Greek chorus, and, frankly, their arguments are all Greek to me. Let's go through them one at a time. As far as whether this is a giving away of the tax base in appropriation, read the bill. This is an appropriation. It is not giving away a tax base. It makes an appropriation of money with an anticipation of doing it over time. Don't we do that every time we put something in the base? We put it in there for one year and we anticipate that we will do it over time. We simply, in this bill, say we are going to put in a base and expect that base to last for 20 years, but we are not obligated. It is not the giving away of a tax base. That is a specious argument. Secondly, Senator Warner