

of \$90,000 or more pay their fair and proportionate share. This will not address the total tax increase that occurred, I wish it could. I have made proposals of this before the Revenue Committee this past year. I had six different bills offered, all six bills were killed, that would have went at it in a different way. I think this is a perfectly reasonable idea at this point in the game. We are trying to implement the reduction in the middle income, but increase and make...and have the wealthy people pay their fair and proportionate share. For that reason I would support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion...further discussion on the Wesely amendment? Senator Hefner. Senator Hannibal on deck.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the Wesely amendment, and I also oppose the committee amendment. I want to tell you why. Two years ago, remember two years ago, 30 senators voted then to go ahead and redo our state income tax. And we agreed, we agreed then, along with the Revenue Committee members, we agreed then that we would not increase state income tax. And I think that was made fairly clear on the floor. It was not our intention to increase state income tax. The Revenue Committee, however, did add a little fudge factor in. We figured that this fudge factor may be 7 or 8 or maybe as high as 10 million dollars. But we didn't want to come up short from what we had intended, because it was just a year or two before that, or a couple of years, that we were called into special session to either increase taxes or reduce the budget. This body saw fit to reduce the budget instead of increasing taxes. But at that particular time, if I remember correctly, both the Revenue Committee and the majority of this body, realized that we probably wouldn't get it exact, that we would need to come back and do some fine tuning. That is what the Governor's bill is doing here today, we're trying to fine tune it so that we will not have an increase in state income tax. Now Senator Wesely comes and wants to change the whole proposal. He says it isn't fair the way it is. Well, I think that this body tried to pass a bill that was fair, and I believe that it was fair. So I would urge you to oppose the Wesely amendment. Remember, last year we corrected a portion of the state income tax, but we realized later that it wasn't enough, so now we've come back with another bill to do that. But I want to remind this body that setting tax rates is not an exact science. It's hard to set tax rates so that you will raise an