

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President and colleagues, I did not know I was voting for a tax increase. Vard Johnson stood there time and time again saying that this was hold-harmless. I did not vote for a tax increase. And, if someone did, maybe I just don't understand. For one thing may I point out that the Governor's proposal, when...for 773, had five brackets. The first one was 2 percent, the second one was 3.1, the third was 4.8, the fourth was 5.5, the fifth 5.9. Now the current rate was set up by the Revenue Committee, not by the Governor. I must oppose the committee amendments and Senator Wesely's amendments. We need a tax decrease, we don't need to rearrange the tax brackets right now. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Those in favor of ceasing debate at this time please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Wesely, would you care to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Again, the amendment is an attempt to bring equity to the tax system that we adopted with the passage of LB 773. The money that would be saved from this would be a revenue neutral adjustment to our tax rates, would then be diverted into an increase in personal exemptions, an amendment that is pending to the bill after the committee amendments are adopted, if this amendment is adopted. So, clearly what I'm trying to do is the following--adjust the tax rates, so the higher income that got a tremendous benefit under 773 pay just a little bit more to help make up for a decrease in the tax rates for the middle income, the people that got hit with the huge increase under 773. It's clear, it's simple, it can't be clouded by some of the rhetoric you just heard by some individuals. What we're saying is that 773 was a tax shift and we want to shift it back to more equitable, progressive system along the lines of the system we had before 773 was adopted. It's not unreasonable for those individuals over \$90,000, the slight increase from 5.9 to 6.5 percent is not