

unreasonable. As Senator Hall talked about, we were at 9.5 percent before, so they still receive a tremendous benefit. Their tax rates are still much less than they were before, but at least a little bit better than they are under this current system that we have in place. We simply went too far. This makes a slight adjustment back and provides the tax break that we, I think, all recognize needs to be there for our average citizens, the ones with the middle income level of support that need that sort of assistance we're talking about. Now Senator Hefner talked about this bill, 773, needs fine tuning, that's what we need, that's what the Governor is trying to do. No, I think we need more than fine tuning, we need an overhaul. If this was a car, Senator Hefner, in one of your gas stations, and it came in, it's in need of a little more repair than just a tune-up, it needs and overhaul because it's simply not working right, it isn't doing what it was said to have done, it wasn't revenue neutral, it wasn't an attempt to bring fairness to our tax system, it was an attempt to provide tax breaks for the very wealthiest of our income taxpayers, and that is something very few people have recognized until lately, as the figures have come in. Also it's a much greater increase than has been talked about. It isn't an \$18.3 million increase, it was a \$26.6 million increase. So what we have in this bill is too little, in terms of the amount of the relief, and too little in terms of the fairness that needs to be in this system. So I ask for your help in returning some equity and reasonableness to the system. And certainly it's...recognize that we have this increase, that we have had this adjustment, and now it's time to turn back and bring to us the equity and fairness that we had been promised under the bill. I ask for your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question is the adoption of the Wesely-McFarland amendment to the committee amendment. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Record vote.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Record vote has been requested. Record.

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on pages 1639-40 of the Legislative Journal.) 15 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Motion fails. Next item.