

personal exemption increase. I go back to 773, and I go back and I can remember the transcript very well, and I remember offering these same amendments to LB 773, and they failed because I said it was going to be a tax increase. And Senator Vard Johnson said, no, it's not going to be a tax increase, he said, but we do have a little bit of a fudge factor in there. Senator Hannibal says we gave, gave \$10 million of it back. Who cut the checks? I didn't get one. The awful rich fudge that we concocted, through LB 773, is there. We have in no way, shape or form, even with the adoption of LB 739 in its introduced form, will we correct the increase in taxes that we voted on, adopt and the Governor signed in LB 773. There will still be people paying more tax than they did in 1985 or 1986, and there will be people paying less tax than they did in 1985 and 1986. That's a fact. We are not by some sweeping move here giving anything back. And we all talk about we're giving money back to the taxpayer, we're not giving back a dime. They've paid additional tax. We have used those tax dollars over the last couple of years. We need those tax dollars. And I don't think it is good tax policy for us to come back in here and say now we want to give it back. That's not easy for me to stand up and say. I opposed increasing the sales tax, I think it was the first year I was down here, and had words with the guy who was the Governor at that time, and...because I didn't believe it was necessary. I don't...didn't like the fact that we were increasing the taxes when we passed 773. Voted for it because I believed in changing the system, that was absolutely vital to us surviving on our own terms and not being totally reliant on the federal government for our tax policy. We did the right thing at that time. I don't believe that going back now and saying we're going to reduce those rates is the right thing. We talk about what happens in the economy and how we can never predict and tax policy is not an exact science. Who knows that two years from now we might not...our economy in this state might go to hell in a handbag. And we will be back in here doing exactly what we did when we were tied to the federal government and they stuck it to us and we had to increase our rates. And everybody accused us of raising taxes, because that percentage went up. We didn't really increase taxes, it's just that when we had to use the figure from the federal government for adjusted gross, which we still use, they still determine the base at which we start, we had to increase the percentage in order to at least collect the same amount of money. And we got beat about the head and shoulders, because we were increasing taxes, by the editorial writers of the state. But we weren't. Did we