

since last summer, certainly a much bigger increase than we had talked about when LB 773 passed. Now with that, I am again trying to maintain good faith with our taxpayers. The Governor talked about not raising income taxes. This change is needed to keep faith with that promise. It also keeps faith with the idea that we need a fair tax system. The proposals of the Governor are an improvement on the tax system but certainly not as adequate as they should be, that we still have an overburden on the middle-income taxpayers, excessive breaks for the high-income taxpayers and that tax shift has to be reversed to some degree to bring greater equity to our taxpayers. With that, I'd move for adoption of this amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj, please. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Gosh, I guess I got caught with my light on. I didn't know it was on, but I will say that I do support Senator Wesely in his...and I don't have the figures or anything, but it certainly balances the tax out as we do, and I will be voting for it. Anybody else can have my time. Senator Wesely, do you want the rest of my time?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I want to just thank Senator Nelson for that. I'm just going to take a couple of seconds and again emphasize as Senator Nelson did. I think she recognizes the shift. One of the things we have talked about a little bit is the increase involved and how much of an increase we had and that has been debated in the newspapers and in the media over the course of the last year, and obviously the Governor originally said there was no tax increase and kept battling myself and others over this issue until finally last December the decision was made that she could admit that there was a tax increase although her level of the tax increase was much lower than what the actual tax increase was. We've fought over that issue about how big a tax increase was it, and clearly I think the figures I've had have been right all along and we're starting to recognize that. To keep faith with those figures we do need to raise the level of relief in this bill from the \$20 million figure to the \$27 million figure. But what Senator Nelson is also talking about is the shift and we have little recognized how much of a tax shift has occurred between the higher income and the middle income. We have had the higher income benefit greatly while the middle income have borne the burden of this tax increase. It is the middle-income taxpayers,