PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please. Senator Wesely, there are no other lights on. Would you like to have this be your closing or not?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, that would be fine.

PRESIDENT: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, a couple of comments in response to some of the concerns expressed. First off, Senator Hannibal said we haven't really had the higher income with the tax break and that's just not the case. The study by the fiscal office, and I've passed it around for you, indicates once again the change per return tax liability dropped dramatically from 1986 to 1987 when we passed LB 773 for those individuals with income higher than $45,000 and particularly a big drop in tax liability for those with 90 or more thousand dollars income. We have a tax shift here which can be denied by anybody who wants to try, but in fact, is the case. The higher income have reduced their tax liability. The middle income have suffered a tremendous tax increase, an increase that we've tried to document and bring to the attention of the public and we didn't even really have to because they knew it personally and first hand. The vast majority, the bulk of the population knew a year ago that there was a tax increase and contacted me and other senators and said, what has happened here? We though LB 773 was tax neutral, was revenue neutral, it wasn't going to end up being a tax increase and why am I paying so much more in taxes back in 1987 and 1988? And of course, we knew that it was a tax increase. We did the studies that came out that showed it was a $40 million tax increase. We battled with the Governor, the Governor denied it, the Governor denied it, and finally the Governor admitted it back in December. And still the proposal before us from the Governor is inadequate. It is too little and it is too late. It should have been done a year ago. It should have been greater than is being proposed. It is not meeting the question of justice and equity in taxes that it should and in my estimation the better way to go would be to have this amendment adopted. It does increase the upper income bracket, but that is not unreasonable. When they've had the tax break they've received over the past couple of years and recovering a little bit of it back is not, I think, an inappropriate thing to do. In addition, we do provide through the exemptions, tax relief for all taxpayers but primarily it would be a benefit to those families and middle-income wage