

that change we made, 58 percent, so roughly 1,500 of those 2,700 no longer have to file income tax returns. So what we're doing here is we're putting into place, we're doubling, doubling a benefit for not even 2,700, but more like 1,200 people and we're calling it help to the elderly, we're calling it help to the elderly, \$200,000 divided amongst 1,200 people. Now that's not bad bananas. I mean that's pretty good. We're not talking...we're talking about really less than 1.5 percent of the elderly population that is going to benefit from this proposal. It doesn't matter what their income is as long as they meet the requirements, and Senator Smith is absolutely accurate on the sheet that she hands out. I don't think it's good tax policy. I think it makes very little sense to go in willy-nilly and double a credit for 1,200 people because who are we discriminating against? We're discriminating against the other 99 percent of the elderly population who have social security that isn't taxed and we're on an even keel prior to this, prior to this proposal we're on an even keel. Now we're going to say we're going to give this benefit to 1,200 people, discriminate against the other 99 percent and call that tax support or tax breaks for the elderly, 1,200 people across the entire state. That I don't think is a good proposal. Disregard everything I said...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...with regard to the tax exempt munny bonds issue. I did catch Senator Hannibal flat-footed, yes, let's use that term but it made the point. I'm making the point again that you're dealing with a very, very small group of people. You're dealing with an issue that few of us know much about. I mean it is so complicated, I could pass this out to you but it would be a waste of paper because it's just ridiculous to look at what the tax guide says about it. It's an issue that would benefit, again, less than 2 percent of the entire elderly population in this state. At \$200,000, approximately 1,200 people would benefit. That is not what I would call good tax policy. I would urge the body to reject Senator Smith's amendment and to move on to the other proposals on LB 739. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I, too, I hate to go against my dear friend Senator Smith. I don't