

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Let me try and find out exactly where we're at, and then I'm sure we don't need to take very much more time on it. Maybe Senator Hannibal can respond. But we had amendments that Senator McFarland and I attempted to attach to the bill, and he's not here right now. But we failed in those efforts to raise the amount of tax relief under this legislation and to adjust the relief so that it better targeted assistance to the middle income taxpayers of the state which were hit with the tax increase under LB 773. We failed in that attempt, but we want to reiterate again the inequities of LB 773 and the fact that after Friday's discussion about income under our fiscal projections once again indicates that the income tax increase was dramatic, it was large, it was perhaps larger than it's even estimated now to be according to some members of the forecasting board. And I still don't think we have a complete handle on just how great an increase we went through when LB 773 was passed. This bill attempts to address those issues. I think it falls short. It is not enough of a tax relief package to completely answer those concerns about revenue neutrality to LB 773. I think we need to understand that. Also, we have yet to address the tax shift to the degree that we need to, the fact that our middle income taxpayers had a much greater increase, that our upper income individuals had a dramatic tax liability decrease. I think again we have a tax increase, we also have a tax shift and not enough people recognize that fact. But lastly the point I'd make dealing with the day care issue is that this bill does provide day care tax credits. Now there will be an attempt to fund Title XX monies in the budget, and I think clearly, I want to state for the record before this bill advances that if we are unable to get Title XX monies that the poorest of our people can provide...have some minimal day care services, then I can't see where we'd want to go forward with LB 739, at least to the degree that it does provide the day care tax credits for those individuals of the means to pay for day care on their own. So, because of that problem, I want to state for the record that if we are unable to deal with Title XX that I, and I'm sure others, will come back on this bill on Final Reading and try and address that. But I think Senator Hannibal said earlier when we discussed this that that is something we're going to work on. I anticipate success in dealing with this issue, and so I feel comfortable with the idea of the bill advancing at this time. And again my only concerns are the fact