

SENATOR CHIZEK: No, I'm going to pass on this.

PRESIDENT: Oh, okay, all right. Senator Withem, but I should be introducing some guests here. Senator Wehrbein, Senator Wehrbein, do you have our guests back there now? All right. May I introduce some guests of the Mayor's Committee for International Friendship. We have five visitors to the Legislature today, Senator Wehrbein is here as their host. They are Ricardo de la Cruz of the Dominican Republic, Fernando Chong of Nicaragua, Guillermo Munoz of Colombia, Edgar Gutierrez Perez of Guatemala, Juan Jose Meier of Peru, Rose Marie Aragon, the United States Department Escort, and Eve Desrasiers of the United States Department Escort. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. We appreciate your visiting us today. We're in a busy session and we are happy to have you, and some of our members will be happy to visit with you. Thank you again for being here. Senator Hall, please. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I want to ask Senator Haberman a question about his amendment. Does your amendment strike the sales tax increase?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Chambers, it does strike the sales tax increase and leaves the tax...leaves the property tax relief for two years.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'm puzzled by the little exchange I had with Senator Lamb, and here's why I'm puzzled. He said that his participation in this bill is not a political maneuver, but it's a part of a crusade that he's been waging for a number of years, and I can buy that up to a point. If it's a crusade, he does not want to cut it off arbitrarily and fail to provide a funding mechanism. If the two positions that he espoused are consistent, I fail to understand how that can be the case. But here is the main problem I have with this bill, whether it's amended or not, there is a surplus of money in the treasury and it was not put there only by property owners. I'm going to say again what I've said before. There are people who rent and through their rent they pay the property tax of the landlord. When the property tax relief comes the landlord will get it, will not reduce the taxes and ultimately there is going to be an increase in the sales tax. So, even if you don't talk about the