

heard on other issues, that this is the year to right the wrongs that we've created. We've done that with the Commonwealth issue. We, I hope, will do it with this issue, because I think the time is available for us to do it. The funds are here to make an adjustment. I think the body should reject the bracket motion. As Senator Hannibal has indicated, this is simply an attempt to kill the bill and again try and inflict some damage on the Governor's reputation. With that, I would give the remaining part of my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens. About two minutes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. That, with the minute and a half that I stored up last week, maybe I'll have enough time to finish at this point. I just had a particular thought as I listened for about two years to this body. I was not here on 773 and 775. And quite honestly on this vote it doesn't make any difference. I've said it for two years in this body, listening to the members say, yes, we knew it was a tax increase; no, I voted on it, I didn't know it was a tax increase. And I hate to tell you this, but nobody cares. There is a thing out there called Potomac Fever in Washington, D.C., and you get so caught up in the government, so caught up in what is going on in the rumor and innuendo and excitement that you actually believe at some point that the people know and care about all the things that you do. And the same things can be in Lincoln, maybe it's Salt Creek Fever. (Laughter.) It's a strange fever when you get Salt Creek Fever, has a little bit more of an odor, but nonetheless the results are the same. You get thinking, it's debated on the floor and stating points and stating this, and counter-charging and so on, and you actually begin to believe that the people out there are actually listening to this and actually care. And I think all of you know that in the campaigns that went on last year the public believed, whether they were led to believe, whether they read it, whether they just believed it on their own, that it was revenue neutral...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...they believed that. Consequently, in my opinion, I don't care if you voted for 773 because it was revenue neutral. I don't care if you voted on it because it was a tax increase, or you voted against it. It doesn't make any difference. If governments are going to increase taxes for