

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion fails. Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion to return the bill for specific amendment, that being to strike Section 2. That is offered by Senators McFarland and Hall.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. It was clear by that last vote that the body does not want to do anything but vote on LB 739, and I think that's good. I don't intend to forestall that for all that much longer, but I do want to just make a couple of comments and then I'll withdraw this motion as well and we can get on to voting on the bill. LB 739 is a proposal that I think was offered in good faith by the Governor. I don't think on this bill I have bashed the Governor one iota. With regards to the issue of her proposal in the change in the income tax, I said I thought it was a very gutsy effort on her part. I supported it when she did it in 773, I supported it when former Governor Kerrey attempted to do that the year previous, because I think what we needed to do was take control of our own destiny and establish our own income tax system. We did that. That's water under the bridge. What we do through 739 is make adjustments to that. I would just argue that I don't think that is a wise point at this measure. I don't think anyone needs to make amends for a promise that they made. I don't think any promise was ever broken, to be quite honest with you. I mean we made a serious change in the way we collect income tax. And whenever you do that you're going to have some adjustments in there that, yes, people are going to feel the pinch. And two years ago I said taxes are going to go up, Senator Moore, I was right, first time in a long time, but I was right. And I am very glad that they did go up, because I look at the number of proposals, the number of measures, the number of dollars that we've spent so far this year, and we needed to do those things. Senator Rod Johnson is absolutely right, turn over the green sheet and look at those things. But, unfortunately, if we pass this bill it may be the last year for a long time that we're able to do that. We may not even be able to sustain some of those things down the road. Hopefully that won't be the case. And hopefully when this bill passes and the Governor signs it the revenues will still continue to come in. Maybe it all falls into that category of growth. I doubt it. But the fact of the matter is I think we've got a good income tax system now the way it is. And revenues are coming in, they