

are appropriated. One other interesting thing, after I talked with the Tax Commissioner and the Personnel Director last week and they asked me to wait for the Attorney General's Opinion, I also received an anonymous phone call from a person who worked within the Department of Revenue and this person said to me, Senator McFarland, the staff at the Department of Revenue are very thankful you are bringing this resolution. The person said, believe me, there are political games being played in the Department of Revenue; those bonuses, in fact, are being allocated on the basis of political loyalty to the Governor's tax policies and not on professional performance. As a matter of fact, that person said there is no way that any of us can question the tax policies of the Governor's office without jeopardizing our positions at the Department of Revenue. People who have questioned those policies or made light of those policies have either been disciplined for it or chastised for it or some of them have just kind of faded out of the picture and they have kind of been shuffled to a side or transferred or suddenly they're not...no longer there after a few months. They transfer out of the department. And this person said, I cannot tell you my name because if I told you my name and that I was providing this information to you, my job would be in jeopardy. And I said, look, I've seen the list. There is...it's distributed to a lot of people, it seems to me that maybe it's not being done on political...for political reasons, that it's just being done according to performance or merit increase or whatever. And the person says, that may appear that way on the surface but if you look at all the distributions that have been made over the...year after year after year, they always go to the persons who agree with the tax policies...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: ...of the administration, who do not question those policies, who follow the standard line, the standard political philosophy, that all these tax changes there was not very much of a tax increase, that the tax incentive program under LB 775 is good for the state. If you agree with those and your consistent and you behave, then you get a bonus. If you object or question those policies in any way, then you are out of the running for any type of bonus increase. And the person went on to say that we should keep it up, we should...there were a lot of things going on in the Department of Revenue that senators would be shocked if they were aware of, that we're just viewing the tip of the iceberg with this bonus