

was and this thing that we're talking about in 1059 not only is a tax increase, but it's a dishonest one. I looked at the beginning of this bill and it says, this should be called the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Act. Equity, that means fairness. Renters are not treated fairly by this bill. The poor definitely are the hardest hit by a sales tax which is regressive. The items that are taxed pursuant to a sales tax consume a greater percentage of the income of the poor. They pay the same flat rate of tax on those items as the wealthiest. They have a smaller percentage of usable income left after that if they have anything. They barely make it now and to increase this tax, this sales tax by the amount envisioned by LB 1059 is unconscionable. In the old days those on the sea called buccaneers, also known as pirates, would fly a flag that would not tip the merchants ship as to what kind of ship was approaching them. Then, when the quarry was within range and could not escape, they ran down the false flag and they ran up the Jolly Roger, which was a skull and crossbones, to show what they really were...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...so that by the time...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Excuse me. (Gavel.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all right, the buccaneers are not listening and it doesn't matter because you're not going to change a buccaneer into an honest sea person through persuasion or an appeal to that which is right. This bill is politics par excellence and it is going to grind the poor into the dust and those pushing for it don't really care. There will be other issues when we talk about doing things for the family, for the children, but then when it comes to the income that is necessary to provide the basics of life, we take from them that little that they have and pretend this is such a noble bill. This is not even an aid to education bill, it's an aid to schools and if Senator Haberman's amendment is not taken, it will be even more dishonest than it is on its face. We all know, oh, Senator Beck asked, where have all the taxpayers gone? The next line says, gone to the graveyards, every one. Well, you know how death and taxes go together so taxpayers and graveyards go together. This is one of those situations which I hope for the sake of those who are supporting the bill, it does not come down to a close vote. I hope you're not in a situation where you need every