

that is true. But I would like to focus more on a philosophical concept that has troubled me the entire time I have been here, particularly the last three years, now this being the fourth year. And that has been the whole issue of the tax policy of the state. As you well know, I've raised considerable question about it and where are we going with it. This bill, as has been pointed out, has been disguised, to a degree, as an education bill, and certainly that is one of its components and one of its primary parts. But also the major significance of it is the tax changes that are being made. And the tax changes that troubled me, I have indicated in hearings before on this bill when it was in our Education Committee and so on, it's troublesome when you have a major tax increase in the sales tax and the income tax and then try to disguise it and to a degree make it palatable by saying you're improving education. That's very troublesome to me because the fact of the matter is that our tax system, in the past four years, has been...become increasingly unfair for middle income working people. We have implemented, in 773, and plus 775 and the Governor's tax policies, in my view, a tax system that benefits the corporate executives, that benefits the wealthy and the affluent, and that really causes considerable disadvantage to many middle income families. This bill will only increase that inequity and that unfairness to middle income people. What has been done in the past four years to benefit working people, young men and young woman who are trying to raise a family on a modest income? What tax policy have we implemented in the past year that helps those people, who may not be represented as a special interest group, but who certainly a numerous segment of our society? Were they helped by 773? I don't think so. Were they helped by 775? I don't think so either. Were they helped by any of the other policies, the worker's comp benefits, or the unemployment insurance benefits, or any of the other policies that are coming through? I don't think they've been helped significantly at all. And now this particular bill will increase that inequity, particularly for the working people who happen to not have enough income at the present time to be purchasing their own house. If you have a young family with young children, and they're renting at the present time and they're trying to save money to set aside, to buy a house, for a down-payment on a house, to finance a house, to fulfill the...somewhat the American dream of owning your own house, having your own family and a stable situation,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.