

for the next session and try to figure out a long-term solution. And, ladies and gentlemen, this isn't going to be easy. This is a very complex issue. I have been on the Revenue Committee for 13 years and it just seems like every year we have problems. Several years ago we asked the Legislature for \$350,000 to conduct an in depth study of our tax system. Senator Vard Johnson was the Chairman of this select committee that handled this, and still we did not come up with any answers. In fact, finally, Senator Vard Johnson resigned, and I don't believe that Senator Vard Johnson would back away from very many things, but he backed...I felt that he backed away from this. We spent \$350,000 and I understand that in the end it was closer to \$400,000 for the study, but we didn't resolve anything. And so it's going to take a long time to get this resolved, but I think right now we need to pass these three bills that are before us. And so I would just ask you here this morning to vote this resolution down.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, please, followed by Senator Withem and Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rise in support of Senator McFarland's resolution for perhaps a different reason than others have spoken. But I would like to say that I think Senator McFarland's reasoning was very good and that we do need some kind of a process by which we make these decisions. I am, frankly, quite frustrated because as I have watched the story unfold in the news media, I haven't had any part in it. I'm a legislator, I represent some 30,000 constituents and I have to account back to those some 30,000 constituents when this session is over and when the regular session is over. When do we come together and talk about the problem, yes, talk about the problem, get the experts in that we need to help us find the answers to it and try to arrive at some solutions that will not be political, that will not be short-term but that will be long-lasting? I am, frankly, tired of reading about this special interest group and that special interest group being brought in to solve the problems. We're the ones who need to solve the problem. We're the ones who are the legislators and that is the principal reason why I stand in support of this resolution. Ladies and gentlemen, I think we need a process. We have developed, through the Legislature, a process by which the public can be involved in these policy questions and I think that we have done a service to the public at large in establishing that process. But we don't seem to