

hope to speak to a couple of questions. The first...or a couple of points. The first one, I've heard a lot from Senator Hall and others about the little person. But, you know, I think what the body needs to keep in mind is that the middle person is going to be hurt no matter what we do. Our tax policy in this state has been so screwed up for so many years that we are in such a corner that, if we pass the Withem amendment, we open the door for large corporations to take the walk, and we know who will pick up the tab for that, we know who will pick that up, and we'll have to do something, obviously. If we pass the Withem amendment, the little people are still, at some point, not going to get the things that they should have because...that's another issue that I'll get to in a minute. I know that doesn't make much sense. I think what I'm trying to get to is something that has been swelling in me for a long time listening to this debate. One of the things that I naively, I guess, thought when I came to this Chamber, and I hope when I leave I'll still believe it, still naively, I suspect, is that we are elected as government officials to care for the people, to take good care of the money of our people, and to spend it wisely. I find it intolerable, I find it intolerable that we, as a body, regardless of the reason, say that, yes, we have collected the money unconstitutionally. The courts have said that to us. We're collecting it unconstitutionally, but if we give it back, because it's the right thing to do, if we allow you to give it back, government will be hurt. We may not be able to function as government like we have in the past. So what we find this body turning itself into, if they would just look at it, they are trying to preserve government above the people, and that is not what we are based upon, that is not what any political party says that they believe in, though I doubt it from what I've heard here today. We are basically saying that we want to punish people, and if you have enough money, and if you have enough advice, I know people that are so ignorant of tax laws and what to do, they would have no clue of what they had to do, whether it was protest or not, they would dutifully pay because they believe in us, sadly enough I think sometimes. What we are saying here today is that to all of those people, and there are thousands of them out there, if you don't know enough to protest, if you don't know enough to file a fee, if you can't afford an attorney or don't hire an attorney, we will not pay the money that we know we've collected unconstitutionally. We know it's wrong, but gosh we might get...hurt government. And then we turn it around and twist it around to say, if we as government are hurt, that means the