

the bill I think it puts us in a position to deal with some other issues for a few days, then come back and work through some more amendments on this, not let this bring the process grinding to a halt and I would encourage your vote in favor of the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hefner, followed by Senator Withem, Elmer, Schimek and Lamb. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: What's the hurry here? Here we have the most important bill of the year up and we want to rush it right on through. Senator Hall was successful in getting most of the amendments withdrawn, but I still say that in some of those amendments that was proposed, they were important and we should have discussed them because as you go through the process, you'll always find that somebody has a different idea and I think it's good to explore those. But I think we're getting the cart before the horse here. I think it's good to have a lengthy debate. Look at how many hours we spent on abortion. Look at how many hours we spent on some other bills, and here we're talking about a very important bill. We're talking about property taxes and property taxes affect the lives of many of the citizens in the state. So I would say if we've got to stay here a few more hours, well let's go ahead and do it, but I can't see any advantage of advancing, adopting this amendment and then advancing the bill and we'll take care of the problem on Select File. We all agree we still have a problem here so why don't we sit down and work it out on General File? So I would encourage you not to support this amendment or the advancement of the bill until we get it right.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll not take long. I have some problems with some of the aspects of this bill. A number of us, along with many people out in the state, feel that the 2 percent surcharge or the one and three-quarters, whatever it is now on depreciation is another form of property tax being levied by the state. By the time we get to Select File we should have an Attorney General's Opinion on that. We do need to make the process work. A lengthy debate at this point is not going to preclude a lengthy debate at Select. Perhaps the bill