

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Landis, on the Hall amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Hall has pulled a rabbit out of his hat, and this is a good-looking rabbit. First, this does away with exemptions. This does away with exemptions. Now, think about that. That's something that we don't normally talk about in this body. We all say it, we all say, gosh, we should go in there and rip some of those exemptions out, all right, until somebody starts doing it. But this is going into our tax code where there are now exemptions and taking out the exemptions. Secondly, the exemptions that are being lifted are relatively progressive, not regressive in nature. Take a look at them. You got a poor district, and they go out, they got a personal accountant. They get their...they go out and have their income taxes done by an accountant. If you're living below the poverty line, uh-huh. They're going to go out and hire an architect to find out where they're going to live? No, they aren't. They going to be in the market for engineering services? They are not. They might get a little legal services for bankruptcy, but, believe me, that as somebody who has got his law degree, member of the Bar and teaches law, I think this body should delight in the fact of taxing lawyers judging by the kinds of comments I hear about my colleagues, each and every day, that I serve with you in here. And I'm ready to tax lawyers as well. This is a general tax, a proposal that I heard Senator Hefner speaking of very favorably on General File, Senator Lamb. It is a general sales tax, and it sends a very good message to the 3-R Committee, which is that everything should be on the table. Take a look at those concepts. A relatively progressive list of ending exemptions, a broadening of the tax base in a relatively general but progressive way and sending a positive message to the 3-R Committee that everything is on the table. That is a good-looking rabbit. I'm going to vote for this amendment and with it I hope the rest of us will too.

SPEAKER BAACK: Next speaker is Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, although I'm not overly fond of this amendment, I'm going to support it also. Last week Senator Beutler and I had almost identical thing, just like Senator Hall has. We thought that this might work last week, but we thought, well, maybe we'd