

he had worked long and hard on a proposal to substitute a sales tax on services for some other provisions and he was waiting for the moment when we could debate that seriously on the floor. About that time the mike system broke down, we set up a microphone down in the well they call it in the house of representatives. Senator Hall goes up ready to give his impassioned plea and defend himself. He gives a speech. Nobody else bothers to go up and speak and it's all voted down. That was a year ago and I tell that story just because I think it's important that we realize as a body that there are opportunities to do things in here and there are times when it's not appropriate to do it. This is a time when it is appropriate to do it. I have been a consistent, some of you may not believe this, but I have been a consistent opponent of sales tax on service plans that have come in here before because they have been too broadly applied, they haven't been particularly well-thought-out. They include regressive features to them. They tax various phases along the process and not the ultimate consumer, but it's time we did something like this. Senator Abboud has attempted to raise the specter of what happened in Florida and, please don't do what happened in Florida. Florida passed a very broad sales tax on services. It included advertising, included not only local advertising, it included advertising coming out of the networks being created in New York City, they were trying to tax that in Florida. It was unworkable and it didn't go. Senator Abboud, this proposal is absolutely nothing like that. We need to do something. I guess I'm becoming more and more frustrated as a member of this body as I see us throwing things up in the air, letting them drop, worrying more about legislative redistricting and the other bills that are up than this major, major crisis we have as a state. If we don't resolve it, the system is going to fall down around us and we can't continue to respond to every special interest that comes in and says, oh, yeah, we want to help solve the problem, but don't pass this one. If not this, what? We're going to go to the occupation tax, uh, uh, can't do that, too burdensome on recordkeeping, can't do that. Then it will be on the energy proposal or whatever Governor Nelson's plan might be. It's been three or four hours since we've heard one, so it may be the next one and there will be a good excuse for not passing that one. Oh, that benefits this group and doesn't benefit that group...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING