

was the nature of the bill. But we did increase taxes, the sales and the income tax and for the majority of Nebraskans, property taxes did go down. Now what are we going to do here for the people of the state? We're telling them that we're going to increase, that we're going to create a new tax for them. We're going to tax a number of different services and I can guarantee that...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...I can guarantee that it will not be limited by this short expanse that Senator Hall has listed in his amendment. Senator Lindsay has a very equitable list of sales tax on services, and if this is the approach the Legislature chooses to take, let's do it. But what are we going to give the people back? We're going to give the people back, hopefully, the same tax rates that they have at the current time on property taxes. I don't think that's going to sell. You're not promising them a reduction in property taxes, you're promising them that their property taxes will hopefully stay the same. I don't think that's going to sell in my district and I don't believe it's going to sell too well in other people's district. If you want to focus in and make an equitable exchange, there is a number of different proposals up there that will be less painful...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...that will be more equitable to the people that have caused this problem.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Labedz, Landis, Lamb and Rogers. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, Senator Lamb I believe pinpointed much of what I was going to say, and I would also be inclined to support this amendment for many of the same reasons that he gave except that we know that this will not be the end of it. I'm not sure that it ought to be the end of it. It may well be that the time will come when we place a tax on services, but I would just venture to guess that sooner or later we will recognize that the people are not going to be fooled by our trying to hide the taxes by a so-called expansion of the tax base. For a while we could go, we had a pretty decent amendment