

guess my thought is this, the simplest way to move forward on this is, one, to exempt all personal property; two, the state has to come up with \$97 million somewhere. It appears at least that the depreciation surcharge is something that, while not exactly liked by people, it can be justified as close as possible for replacement for the property tax. The sales tax collection fee for the retailers is something that I think is certainly justified given the fact that half...many of those same people will benefit by personal property going off of the tax rolls. The ongoing question is, how do you fund the other big gap? And I guess it just keeps coming back to me that instead of inventing some controversial tax on services, instead of implementing some tax rebate or homestead exemption, instead of implementing some energy tax, instead of implementing some occupation tax, you are better off, at least for the short term if, indeed, it is going to be one year, you are better off doing something with the existing tax base. I think after the discussion we have had on the Schellpeper amendment on General File, I think sales tax, a variety of people had a problem with, that is why, eventually, the side of maybe income tax was the route to go. I am sure you can make good arguments why this may not necessarily be the best way to do it, but there is no good...it appears to me there is no way this body is going to come up with something that will try and recreate the status quo, and recreate the tax burden on the people that are going to be exempted. And so in lieu of that, instead of implementing some new tax that we have to pull our hair out, I would encourage the body to...the income tax increase I am talking about is a hybrid of the Schellpeper amendment, where you raise the...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...upper two rates. You can see on the second page of my handout where those rates go. You do raise the biggest rate marginally, but I think if you are simply talking about...if, indeed, you are talking about one year, and maybe this would be one year, you are better off instead of implementing a new tax, you are better off using an existing tax. I think the income tax, where you are trying, to begin with, raise the rate at a greater rate on those...on the higher rates, I think you are trying to, at least, recreate that tax base on the people that are getting the benefit to some degree. I realize we do, indeed, all have to share in the problem, but do not go through all the trials and tribulations of