

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise to oppose the Moore amendment at this point to LB 829. I think we, in debating the Schellpeper amendment a couple of weeks ago, we covered the arguments very well with respect to using a general tax source for replacement of revenue here. So I don't want to belabor the point too much in rehashing it, but as you will probably recall, essentially the argument goes that these personal property tax exemptions that we are putting into place for business equipment affect certain sectors of the economy, specifically. The existing exemptions we have affect agriculture. The new exemptions we are granting affect businesses, and the theory the whole time, at least that I have been operating under with respect to LB 829, as the committee has dealt with it, is that replacement of revenue ought to come from at least in the ball park of the same sources that the benefits of these new exemptions and existing exemptions are benefiting. So those are the sectors that we need to look at, and I think that the proposal that we are going to be discussing down the line, that Senator Hall has outlined to you briefly, and that I intend to support and probably will sign my name to, I think is one that enough people at least are seeing that as a reasonable solution, even if they aren't completely pleased with it, that I think that ought to be our focal point right now. We ought to work through these amendments. I have no objection to debating them, but I think that our focus ought to be getting to that amendment that Senator Hall described, talking about the merits of that amendment, take an up or down vote on that, and I think that will today leave us with a pretty good idea of where we stand on LB 829. I think that, with that, I would urge you...that you reject the Moore amendment, that we reject the concepts of a general rate increase in either sales or income tax as a solution, even a temporary solution to this problem, and that we get on with the work of the 3-R Committee and talk about the Hall amendment in a few minutes on LB 829. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Schellpeper, followed by Senators Lamb, Withem, Hefner, Moore, and Robinson.

SENATOR SCHELPEPER: Thank you, Madam President, I would like to ask Senator Moore some questions, if I could, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore.