

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: So, Mr. Clerk, there's...I guess...reading that, that's the entire amendment, correct? I didn't hear anything about an extension of the session in that amendment. And I guess to Senator Lamb and Senator Robak, I'm glad you're upset, but you might want to save it for the actual amendment, if it comes up. This is not what that amendment does. In fact, Senator Lamb was saying, and I don't need to do it for Senator Kristensen, that there are no other plans out there. If I understand the amendment, what the amendment does is solve a potential problem. The amendment says, right now we have a bill that has a 2 percent...4 percent on the surcharge, there could be some problems with that, change it to simply 2.3, across the board. No problems with that. Everyone is treated the same. And I find Senator Hall's argument interesting, and very rarely do I disagree with Senator Hall on tax policy, because he is a wizard with the numbers, he is good at what he does. But in this case I think we're taking an unnecessary risk. On one side, when we have a 2 and 4 percent, we have a potential, possible problem. On the other hand, if we go 2.3, we still raise the same amount of money, for the most part, and we don't have a potential, possible problem. There is our choice, there is the decision. You can choose to have a potential problem, that one side says there is no problem, the other side says there is, obviously there might be, or you can choose to go with the policy that clearly says we're not going to have a problem in the area. There's the choice, and that solves part of the problem with 829. It does not solve the funding gap. And I want to emphasize what we have in 829 now in regards to the funding gap, for those thinking that we're going to have overrides, for the most part, with 829, the way it is now, we're already \$4 million in the red with the vetoes we have now. Any other override that takes place will simply be used against those bills that the Governor still has, the Governor has approximately \$20 million of bills, 15 of that is LB 91. You tell me where the money is going to come from. That's the policy question we have. Senator Kristensen has put forward an amendment that simply says you can take a gamble at 2.4, keep your fingers crossed, hope Senator Hall is correct. If he's not correct, we've got a serious problem. Or you can go ahead, bring it back, make the change to 2.3, there will be no potential problem, we can then go our merry way home and say not only did we work hard on 829, not only can we congratulate the Revenue Committee, but when we had a little problem at the end, we took the time to do it right, and because we bring it back we then may have to stay another day or two in order to go through