

know, early on in the discussion on these issues with the 3-R Committee and I was given all kinds of...given all kinds of kudos for bending over backwards, and I guess I don't want to have to bend over forwards on personal property tax and how it's being treated, how our tax system, as a whole, is being treated. We have had a tremendous opportunity and we flushed it, ladies and gentlemen, we have flushed it down the drain and we have done it by arguing that we have a hundred million dollar bill here that we have to pay and we are going to, by hook or by crook, by 1063, by amending the Constitution and amending out every protection that is built in the Constitution for the individual taxpayer, for the little guy, the folks who don't send down the lobbyist to represent them, we're going to ask the voters of the state to approve that constitutional amendment for purposes of this tax plan that's spelled out in LB 1063. To me, that represents the worst of all tax policy. That is something that, first of all, I don't believe, no matter what we do, no matter what the campaign is that runs, no matter what they name it, citizens for tax prosperity, citizens for the fairness in taxation, citizens for lower taxes, citizens for economic neutrality, whatever catchy little phrase or name they come up for the group that's going to support the constitutional amendment if it should make the primary ballot in the five to six-week campaign, and they are going to throw hundreds of thousands of dollars at it, I don't think they're going to be able to convince the voters when they go to the polls of what this isn't. And this isn't good tax policy. They are not going to be able to get those folks who pay their bills regularly, that cannot circumvent the sales or the income tax, that have to pay their property taxes, usually with their mortgage payment, because the bank won't even give them the money unless they tie into the tax as a part of that payment, it just doesn't happen, ladies and gentlemen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: They are a lot smarter than we give them credit for. They are going to go to the ballot. They are going to look at the issue. They are going to vote no. And they are going to say the system that would put all personal property tax back on is better than the system that we see in LB 1063. And what you're asking us to do right now is to send over a bill that doesn't contain all the funding, a bill that has flaws in it, as pointed out by its sponsors, and we are to move that over to Final Reading for purposes of voting on a constitutional