

nevertheless, it's a very steep increase. I know that the proponents of this bill says we need to buy new equipment but I think when we buy this new equipment we also need to become more efficient in issuing these licenses. We need to become more efficient in state government and we also need to become more efficient in state...in local government. And, pure and simple, this is a tax increase. I know we may have another name for it, like a fee increase, but it's still a tax increase. I'm wondering if our General Fund budget will go down if we impose this great an increase in fees. I don't think it will. In fact, I know it won't. So I would suggest to you today to adopt the Chambers amendment and then go on from there. I think that the \$6 increase is too much of an increase and this would be more palatable to me. Somebody said on the floor that the driver's license is a valuable document. You bet it is. But I don't think that we need to use the driver's license for all of these uses. How about when you're cashing checks to use your credit card? That would be a lot better, I believe. I just say to you today that the \$10...going from the \$10 fee to the \$16 fee is too much at one time. So I would rather see that we adopt the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, just very quickly, as I do think we probably need to end this discussion. I guess one of the things I would like to clarify is I don't think there is anything hidden here and that we're trying to hide the increase in driver's fee. If we're trying to hide the fact that it's a tax, I'm not too sure what was meant by saying that there was something hidden here, but there's no way you're going to hide a \$6 increase in the fees of a driver's license. So I do not believe that there is a hidden agenda here, that there is anything hidden that's going on in this bill. I would also look at how this bill looked in its original when I first testified at the Transportation Committee in support of it and I did that, by the way, on my own accord because I thought it was something that needed to be done. I wasn't requested to do that by anyone else. I was working with the Department of Motor Vehicles and this discussion came up and I volunteered to help with this bill because I thought it was a good one. But we have already cut considerable out of this bill when it comes to revenue producing before it ever came to the floor here and we have managed to whittle away on it some and we will continue to do so. If we do this on an ongoing basis, the whole program, which is a fairly