

who I think is well respected for his understanding of at least sales and income tax, if not property tax, Mr. Cederburg, who came in and said he was extremely pleased with the restraint that the Legislature has shown on income tax since the changes were made in 1987, because the process of starting a litany of exemptions had not taken place. And I happen to be one who is champion of at least one exemption I can think of in that area myself. But we have not chosen to go that route. As a matter of fact the opposite is true, many efforts have been made to expand that, to make it more progressive than it currently is. That's the example we ought to use in terms of the way we deal with personal property, but we also do that, at the same time, looking over our overall system, in how we are going to go about replacing those revenues, because if you do exempt certain things that haven't been paying taxes, or if you do look at the equity of double taxation, which currently exists out there, the automobile example is a great one, business equipment is another one where you pay the sales and the personal property, those need to be addressed. They should be addressed whether we have this situation...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...that the court has handed us in MAPCO or not. I would hope we would take some time, step back and do that. There clearly is not a problem with our real estate tax base, at least not in the next 18 months. In the next 18 months, in a regular session, you can have a valid issue that goes in front of a general election, a presidential election, if you will, when you have the majority of voters who go out and decide this, not just a small group of people in a special election, in many cases who have the time and inclination to decide this issue. Very few are going to be very well informed. I would argue that it is not in our best interest to adopt this amendment or any amendment to the Constitution, at this point.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Ashford, you're next.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I, too, would like to congratulate, I guess, Senator Lindsay and others who have tried hard to work out a compromise, and I appreciate their efforts. I have a lot of concerns, though, about this