

Senator Lindsay's amendment, and by the way, I believe he was acting in good faith, but I think he got snookered, everybody has concentrated on saying I don't like the idea of 30 votes but I will go along with it, speaking only of the 30 votes required to tax or attach the exemption. This is like that gun, Senator Hefner, it is a 30-30. There is a second 30 that has to be dealt with, and that is where the public takes it in the slats, increasing from 35...from 25 to 30 the number of votes required to remove the exemption. I think that is a mistake. I think it is unfair to the public. There comes a time when people grow tired of being snookered by their representatives, and they may not understand a lot of things that we do, but former Governor Orr found out that one thing the public understands, no matter how you varnish it or present it or misrepresent it, when their taxes are increases, they understand that whereas I had a certain amount of money in my thin pockets, I have even less in my thinner pockets now. So you can tell me that things haven't changed for me but I know that they have changed and you are responsible. You can do all of the maneuvering and the playing of the shell games that has occurred so far, but if this amendment is placed on the ballot and submitted to the public, what they are going to see and be told, and I certainly will tell it every time I get the opportunity, is an attempt by the Legislature to continue favoring those powerful special interests, who, by virtue of being excused from paying their share of the taxes, require others to pay more. And we all know that those big shots and those big interests that pay less than their fair share get more from their tax dollar than the common citizen. Let Mike Harper call the police, and they will come. Let Mike Harper say I smell smoke. They will declare a three-alarm fire and send fire trucks from every place that they have got fire trucks. That is what Mike Harper can get. They find out that there might be some lead or other contaminants in the ground that they sold to Mike Harper, and given him benefits and has been subsidized by purchase money from the county, which comes from the taxpayers, and Mike says, oh, oh, this is going to cost more than I thought. So then the taxpayers ante-up more money for this multinational corporation who, for about the fifth year in a row, has experienced record earnings. And do you know why I mention Mike Harper? Because he is the paradigm, the example, of the power that can completely overrule what a legislature ought to do and compel them to do what it is he desires. What my amendment does is attempt to return us to status quo. You require 30 votes to grant an exemption, 25, as now, to remove it. The amendment that has been presented by