

November 12, 1992 LB 1

directed at anybody here on the floor, it's directed across the hall to the court, to a court that has virtually put this state in a position where urban and rural are probably, at least in my lifetime, so far apart right now because of decisions that the court has rendered, that they are causing problems into the next ten years. And that's a strongly held belief on my part, that it is decisions by a court which is unwilling, for whatever reason, to allow this body to function as our Constitution allows, as our voters have elected us to represent them, select and put in place a tax policy that works for this state. It is a frustration that permeates everything we do to date, and it will permeate everything we do in the next two years in terms of what happens as we go into the twenty-first century, literally. We have to set course on a new tax policy for this state, plain and simple. We, hopefully, have the ability to do that now with Amendment 1. We, hopefully, have the courage to do that within the body when we come back in January 1993, and expand our tax base so that, yes, it's as uniform as possible, it's as fair as possible, and it protects all equally, whether they be urban or rural interests. All LB 1 does is point out the, as Senator Schrock said to me, the pimple that's been out there, that...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...you draw attention to it. And now people are irritated because of that. What we need to do is come into January of 1993, after we pass LB 1, knowing full well that that's the job that lies ahead. All we're doing is putting in place, hopefully, the last short-term solution, and we forge ahead to develop a tax policy that will provide the kind of revenue to provide government that we know our people need and deserve, but not just for a year or the next special session, but for the next decade or two. That's what we owe our constituents, and that's what they sent us down here to do. I hope we'll vote LB 1 over in spite of some of the good arguments against it, because I firmly am not in support of the methodology, but I know it's something we have to do at this time. I hope it's the last time we do this kind of a quick fix operation and move into long-term changes in our tax policy that will provide the revenue we need to operate government. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Now Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members of the body.