

certain scent. I don't know if you wear rings or other symbols that show what you are. But my understanding is that conservatives don't want secret taxes and they don't want exorbitant taxes. What Senator Bernard-Stevens is doing is taking an amount which currently is \$10 and raising it a full \$10 plus half again. So that's a 150 percent increase in this fee. Forget that it goes for the issuance of a marriage license because that is one that should be dealt with by itself, which I'll try to do if I have time. But the idea of raising this tax by 150 percent, because it appears that nobody will pay attention to it, is not a wise decision by the Legislature. The people who will be affected by it may not even have in contemplation marriage at this point. But when they decide to get married they'll pay whatever the charge is. So maybe those who want to raise the fee on the marriage license have that idea of all the traffic will bear. If you've got somebody who's a big enough sucker to want to get married, the person is a big enough sucker to pay any amount that the state extorts from them for this purpose. But there is no justification in sound fiscal policy. There is no justification on the part of a responsible policy-making body, such as a Legislature, to raise a fee by 150 percent, especially when the increase has nothing to do with the service that is being performed. It has nothing to do with the piece of paper that is being obtained. It has nothing to do with the relationship that will be recognized by the state if you buy one of these pieces of paper and stand in front of a preacher, or the captain of a ship, or anybody else authorized to give the incantations that will formalize a man and woman saying that they're going to plod through life together, for better or for worse. By the way, that reminds me, where is Senator Bernard-Stevens? He's gone. But if he was going to make the proper argument, he could say that since, under the wedding, marriage...the wedding ceremony you can marry 16 people, then it's a bargain to pay only \$25. I see Senator Jensen looking puzzled. Four richer, four poorer, four better, four worse. Four times four is 16, although I don't know if anybody has taken advantage of that opportunity, and if they did they'd probably take the four richer and the four better, so they'd just take the eight. But in all seriousness, I hope that we will defeat Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, then I am going to offer one which would strike all of Section 1 so that there is no increase in the wedding license fee...marriage license fee. I should have been alert to every bill that has passed across our desk, but I wasn't. I have been actively engaged in reviewing some of the bills that I thought were more