

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Hartnett, members of the body, and Madam President, I just wanted to add a couple of things to this. You know, what Senator Dierks has been telling you is certainly true and if you think it's true in his district, you should come down in my district where we sit next to the border where people are driving across the line and buying all kinds of products because they can avoid the tax. And then you have to remember that there's a certain amount of border leakage because these people are getting mail orders. But, you know, I think the interesting thing of it is that we're trying to...here I'm not going to try to criticize the Fiscal Office but the facts that they've put down here certainly are questionable due to the fact that it's pretty hard to track, I'm sure it's pretty hard to track the amount of sales that...the amount of tax that might be lost due to the sales because of all of the things that enter into it. And, as a result of that, I feel like that even though those numbers look rather large, I think that...and I don't know how you're going to make them exactly correct...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Preister, your light is next, followed by Senators Warner, Janssen, Wesely, Hall and Vrtiska.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all, I stand in support of Senator Beutler's amendment. I appreciate his questioning and him raising the issue and introducing the amendment. I support it because I think that we have some very genuine concerns with some of the things that we are dealing with here. But, on a larger scale, I think we need to look very carefully at what we're doing here. It's, as I'm looking at our budget and looking at what we're about to do in the whole scheme of things, it seems that as we have already exempted out steel from sales tax, we've exempted out cement from sales tax; we're looking at the throwback rule which the first year will be a million and a half, the next biennium over 3 million, then another 5 million, I think a case could be made for all kinds of things to be exempted out. We've started down this road of exemption after exemption and a good case could be made for all kinds of other products that should be exempted out for this or other reasons. At this particular time, when we're looking at trying to do something for property tax reduction, the money for whatever reduction and relief we may be able to provide is going to come from somewhere to pay for some very legitimate, genuine