

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, shift around, shift around, shift around till we find the principle we like. Now no longer is it the component part, that's not the operating principle anymore. Now the operating principle is business input. And now we're back to a question I asked earlier. What about the copy machine in my title insurance business whose only function is to produce paper which is the product of our business? Why isn't that business input? Why isn't all business equipment business input, just like your instruments of husbandry are inputs? You know, you can't have it both ways. You can't keep arguing the principle you like and excluding others on other principles. Border bleed, if I had a couple of days, I bet I could think of at least 200 high-priced items of city business equipment that could be the subject of border bleed. If border bleed is going to become the operative principle, there are all kinds of bills and all kinds of items that can be brought into this Legislature on the basis of border bleed, because, believe me, there's some state in this Union that sells caterpillar equipment or has defined this or that equipment to have no tax on it, and yet it's border bleed when it serves your purpose. And I think we ought to go back to some of the basic rules and get rid of some of these exemptions that our constituents have pushed us to come in here on and get back to some operating principles that we're willing to apply to everybody. Component parts? Okay, let's do component parts and let's make it fair and equitable for everybody. If border bleed is going to be the operative principle, then let's look at everybody's bleeding. If business input is going to be the operative principle, then let's look at that and apply it fairly. But we're not applying any of these principles across the board and fairly and this is just one more example of an unfair application of whatever principle is being asserted today. Some people say it's a component part and others say, no, it's not really a component part. I think we all know it's not a component part. Is it business input? Yeah, it's business input but so are lots of other things that are currently taxed. If we dropped out everything from taxation that was business input, we would have a financial crisis, but, no, we're picking and choosing which business inputs are most important to our particular constituents. Is it border bleed? Well, I think we all recognize that border bleed, in and of itself, isn't... shouldn't be an operative principle of taxation. Otherwise, we're in the same hopeless place that we are in on some other matters, subject to everybody else's taxes, not