

items left. Now you all are the tax experts. I don't even get into your domain, but I have to today because what you are saying to me doesn't make sense. We ought to be forthright and direct. We know that you can take away from the state's tax base by restricting the rate of sales tax that the state can levy, based on how much of that rate has been given to localities, or by contracting or restricting the number of items on which a sales tax can be levied. As these exemptions occur, the argument made for exemption A that is to be granted today is based directly on the fact that exemption B was granted yesterday, and yesterday exemption B was justified because exemption C was granted day before yesterday, and each thing that was bad and unwise becomes the precedent on which the unwise act of today is to be placed. To do that is to make yesterday's foolishness today's orthodoxy. That is not wise, and you mavens of tax policy are disappointing me. You all are the geniuses. You all are the heavies. I am the lightweight just floating along down here trying to understand what I can by watching the tax geniuses at work. And as I watch you work, what you do makes no sense when I weigh it against the principles that you lay down in terms of what would constitute wise tax policy. You all know that the property tax question is a political issue more than it is a tax issue. It can be framed in whatever terms a person chooses, but there are certain individuals who know how to heat up a button until it becomes what is called a hot button in political and media circles, then you push that hot button and there are certain things that politicians automatically feel they have to do. But on some of these things, we have to learn how to ride out...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** ...the storm. Just because there is a blip on the radar screen, we don't have to say the sky is falling in, or everybody build a big boat because a second flood is coming, or put on asbestos trousers because this is judgment day and we're going to all burn up. We don't have to panic like that. We should study history and study things that have happened during our own lifetime and be practical. I can understand senators trying to work for their constituencies, but because they feel the need to do that for theirs doesn't mean we have to adopt what, in my opinion, would be a very unwise tax policy. I support Senator Beutler's amendment because it brings us closer to that which would be less inappropriate.