

in America that is paid could actually be more actual dollars than the greater percentage of somebody's lower income that they are paying someplace else. So if you leveled off the incomes, then people in other countries may not be paying more dollars than is paid in America. So when the argument is made that food is cheaper in America than someplace else because it is a lesser percentage of somebody's income, that won't work. How many dollars must be spent on food in America as opposed to the equivalent of number of dollars in the other country? I don't travel overseas, but I know people who do, and when they eat in restaurants and purchase food, especially in Paris, it is cheaper in dollars than what they would pay in dollars for food here. So Americans are not paying a small amount for food. Maybe some of those of you who live high off the hog feel that compared...pardon me, Senator Schrock, I know that is your means of making a living, but I am using that as a figure of speech today, it may not be a large percentage of your income but, for poor people, a very substantial percentage of their income goes for food. I just wanted to clarify that, and to be frank, I don't know that it has anything really to do with what we are talking about here, because we are talking the Huey Long philosophy of taxation; don't tax you, don't tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree. Nobody wants to pay the taxes. Whoever has the power to get a bill through is the one who is going to get the favored...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...tax treatment for his or her constituents. And, I say again, there is a rural-urban split, and I don't want to see things happen that will make a greater amount of tax have to be paid by the people in the urban areas. When people talk about giving agricultural land a special break, they don't talk about giving a special break to those renters who take it in the shorts all the time, and they have no one to turn to, no place to turn, but the slum landlord can talk about give me tax breaks, and nothing is passed on to the renter. The renter's rent continues to escalate. I am not in a position to get enough votes to help the people about whom I feel a great amount of concern, but I am in a position to try to stop those kind of tax programs that ultimately will put an even greater burden on those people who can least bear it. If this concession...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.