

about the bill. Senator Beutler's amendment helped show that we do not have purists in this body. On the one hand, under certain circumstances we talk about not eroding the state's tax base. Then when it comes close to us we change all of that. We then talk about all of these artificial distinctions, as Senator Beutler described them, which are meaningless as a justification for giving a rural tax break. Then when something parallel to it and the equivalent of it is presented to us, somehow that is not allowable. I was shocked at Senator Brashear. I thought he was for business. Maybe he's got some secret interests in veterinary medicine. Well, I don't even see him, so he missed that one. But this is one of those bills which I think has helped to unearth some of the problems which are going to be exacerbated as the session wears on. This is one of those bills, again, where people tend to get tired and they don't want to deal with it, but it's a serious bill that deals with a very crucial and significant taxing policy. And when people's attention span and stamina are exhausted before the subject is adequately discussed, we will always have legislation which is half-baked, poorly considered, ill defined in its terms and when time comes to apply it will not work the way some members thought it would work or had been told that it would work. Then the question is asked, how did we get where we are? Why did the Legislature do this? I will tell you why. It takes mental discipline and maybe a certain amount of mental toughness to deal with issues like this which are not glamorous, which require a kind of systematic, methodical plotting manner of dealing with. We have got to look carefully at what it is that we're doing. Senator Bernard-Stevens mentioned that there seems to be developing this session what happens every session and that is to delay making difficult decisions. Advance it to Select and deal with it there. A lot of very controversial bills are stacking up on Select, so by changing the point at which the movement through the pipe is impeded is not going to make any difference in the big picture. We still have all of these issues with which to deal, with which to contend, and, for my part, I'm going to say, like Patrick Henry, except not entirely, I know not what course others may take but I know which one I intend to take. These issues are difficult. From what I've been told about the agenda tomorrow, we're going to have some issues that are controversial, that might generate some emotion, that will require discussion, and on the bills that I am interested in, either that I favor or that I oppose, I'm not going to say we've got a lot of work so we'll just let this go on to Final Reading. There might be one or two or there