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includes the Speaker. It includes the Chair...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of the Exec Branch (sic). It includes the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. This isn't going to be any person's committee. And I'm sorry, Senator Brashear, that you seem to need to go to the credibility of an individual instead of sticking to the policy issue, at least it seemed to me that that was the tenor of that remark. Tax returns should be reviewed in the same sense as this particular item, as in the same sense as everything. Because once you say that something is too confidential to be reviewed, you're saying that the performance of government, the legitimacy of government is secondary. It should never be secondary, never.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I won't try to make any subtle points in this five-minute segment. I'll just be direct. That apparently is the tone that we want to take. And I'll avoid any misguided attempts at humor. The reason that we don't want to adopt AM0915 is because it's poorly drafted. It is an overreaching, simplistic solution flying under the guise of policy analysis by this body, and it takes on more information than we need or want or even have a right to. And it infers that we can here and now this morning do some revolutionary new thing, in spite of the fact that government has been operating the way it has without our fine tuning for quite some number of years. If you go back and read the amendment in context, it starts out, "Except in accordance with proper judicial order," and then it imposes a duty of confidentiality upon the Tax Commissioner as an agency of government. So the any and all information, whether otherwise confidential or not, that AM0915 would have come over to the Program Evaluation Committee of the Legislature is absolutely without limitation and I think, therefore, absolutely without justification. If we want to do a program analysis, if we know how to write the amendment then write the amendment so we can do a program analysis, and if we don't then wait for the next round