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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407, 759

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I'm listening to the debate and when Senator Preister says the two reasons that he introduced this amendment is, one, to protect the poor people, and the other to demonstrate that old things have value, and the first thing that came to my mind is how appreciative Senator Tyson must have been with that comment. (Laughter) Having said that, I'm struggling as to what to do here. As I've mentioned, I've supported Senator Brashear's package. I agree with his concept of broadening the base. I appreciate his leadership in this area. However, when we're discussing taxes, such as the one we are now, the car repair, and the one we discussed the other day on remodeling or construction labor, to me those are taxes of last resort. And I'm struggling because here we are, we're debating the revenue bill before we're debating the...what's next on the agenda and that's the appropriations, or the spending portion of it. I read in the paper on line last night that there's some other senators who have tens of millions of dollars in additional cuts, and I don't know if those cuts are viable or not, but I think that maybe before we decide whether to take out car repair or leave it in, or take out construction labor or leave it in, maybe we should look at the spending portion of it and see where we end up. Maybe we don't have to enact a tax like this that is going to be difficult on poor people. Maybe we don't have to enact a tax on an industry that, at least in my community, is one of the only industries that's providing jobs. That's construction. So it seems to me that when you look in the...you read on line and in the paper about other proposals and you look at LB 407 and there's, what, six or eight amendments, and I understand there's numerous more drafted, maybe we should...and I don't want to say pass this over, but maybe we should get on to the spending portion, determine exactly what needs to be raised in revenue, and then come back to this and then decide do we want to enact a tax that is absolutely going to impact the poorest portion of our society? I believe that. Poor people don't drive new cars. New cars don't need repairs. So I'm willing to enact a tax like this, if this is what we have to do to solve the problem, and I'm not convinced that's what we have to do. So I'm struggling as to what to do. I'm going to look to Senator Brashear for some leadership here, perhaps Senator Bromm. Maybe we should discuss the spending portion of this