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SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, with that statement, it seems to me that most of the solutions that we're thinking about fit the scale that would be existent if we passed the bill with the committee amendment, or for that matter, without the committee amendment. But I do like the committee amendment, because it gives ground grudgingly on the property tax issue, and doesn't yield permanently that difference between \$1.00 and \$1.05. So thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, on the Education Committee amendments. Senator Chambers. Is he...here he comes. Thank you. Sorry about that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm doing some work other than on the microphone. I don't think anybody would say that we don't have a problem. I want to make it clear that I recognize that fact. We just have different ways of going about trying to solve it. If all of these stratagems that are being presented along the road of LB 1093 fail, we have something left to do. I would really fight hard to prevent any increase in the sales tax, any increase whatsoever. My colleagues in the rural areas mention the property tax as the most regressive of all taxes. There could be a dispute about that. Here's the way I see the sales tax. Poor people have all of their income taxed at whatever the rate the sales tax is. Poor people don't have any discretionary income. By that I mean, anything left after they've spent money for necessities. Other than the purchase of food, everything a poor person's money is expended for is bitten into by the sales tax. So that is the rate of taxation that poor people face, not a percentage of what is paid in income tax to the federal government, not what is left after all tax shelters and every other scheme and dodge has been exhausted. But the actual total amount of money that a poor person takes in is taxed at the rate of the sales tax. So whether it's L'il Orphan Annie while she was still an orphan, or Daddy Warbucks before he took L'il Orphan Annie under his wing, they both pay the same rate of sales tax, the same flat amount. But it doesn't hurt Daddy Warbucks as much, obviously. I mention poor Widder Brown. She used to be on the radio. She didn't get any residuals, so she's probably very poor, more poor now, if she's still alive. But