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FLOOR DEBATE

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Legislature, I've listened to the debate. I know very well what I have said my position is with reference to the income tax. But the fact is, the current problem facing the state cannot be left unaddressed. So rather than be in a position of saying, only what I'm offering is reasonable--meaning raise the income tax--I have to accept the fact that other people equally committed to solving the problem don't see it my way. Maybe not enough would agree with me to raise the income tax to the level I would like to see it raised. But I am trying to make an approach that could give something to those who have done so much work with the approach that is contained in LB 1090-whatever-it-is. I don't believe that a decision taken today on General File necessarily will stick on Select File. But the difference between doing something like this and doing nothing, or just taking the committee amendment, is to not make people who have an interest show their hand and declare themselves definitely. But this will achieve that goal, to some extent. Those who don't like property tax might see this as worse than the committee amendment. Those who don't like property tax but see the need to do something may see this as better than the committee amendment. We're living in a world now which does not offer any solutions that will not be painful to somebody. If I'm going to be 100 percent frank today, here is what I will say. Let me change the structure of that sentence. If I "were" going to be 100 percent frank today, here is what I would say. The only position that I will assume that I'm not going to yield on at all would be the sales tax. If that becomes the only thing that we have on the table, either there will be cloture or there will be a special session. And if they get a sales tax by way of a cloture vote, then there are other things that they're definitely not going to get. I'm not the only one who can take that position. Other people can, but they just won't. I'm not responsible for other people. I'm not accountable to other people. But this is the only offer that I can make which is different from one to raise the income tax. Even with this, I would still seek an increase in the income tax, because that needs to be done. We cannot stumble and fumble along as we've been doing. I think those various funds that have been plundered and that are being plundered this session are not going to be a ready source of revenue for very much longer. If we were to take all of the money from every