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started using trusts and passing on wealth to their families. And within four or five generations, the accumulation of wealth in a very small segment of the population was very evident. And the unfairness that that then creates in society, when all wealth is then accumulated in a few families, is self-evident, in my opinion. It leads to the destruction of the middle class and divides your country into very wealthy, a few very wealthy, and a lot who don't have much. What a person earns during his lifetime I think ought to be his. I think there ought to be an emphasis to giving...to keeping taxes as low as possible when a person is alive and can enjoy what they're doing themselves. But to let the dead hand control society for generations later is simply not appropriate. And that's a lesson we learned, and now we seem to want to forget it altogether and let the cycle repeat itself. And maybe we're doomed to that. But I think that...I think we need not go through that again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Landis.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) There are no further lights on. Senator Landis, you may close on LB 1034.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, I'm glad we got that off our chest. And let us go back to LB 1034, which is the end of the cliff effect at the \$1 million level, a revenue-neutral bill with a higher bracket. I was thrilled to hear the old law school phrase "the dead hand." I got a little carried away over here doing the dead hand bit. And in fact it has been suggested to the Revenue Committee that we study the area of estate taxes. My guess is that we will find a divide. I find myself on the Beutler-Raikes school myself. I happen to believe that an estate tax is reasonable. I think it's a juncture in the distribution of goods and services at which it's reasonable to take a share for society's well-being. But I know that we have differences of opinion on that score. It has been urged upon us that this is an area that would be ripe for study. And I...that's certainly within the realm of possibility. This, however, is simply good management of our existing tax policy by ending the onerous cliff effect and readjusting that so that it has a modest but revenue-neutral impact at the highest end of taxpayers. I ask for the adoption and advancement of LB 1034.