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FLOOR DEBATE

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order to satisfy the judgement, I have filed an amendment beneath Senator Hartnett's income tax amendment so that we can debate the merits of the \$155 million. Now if at some point in time 30 people change their mind...it doesn't take 30 to do it on Select File, it's 25. You heard the Speaker say that. But in the end it would take 30, so we could always bring this back some way or another, given the possibilities of the process. So with that, Mr. President, I would ask leave to withdraw AM3454 in order that we can have this discussion about the income tax.

SENATOR KREMER: The amendment is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President. Mr. President, Senator Hartnett would move to amend, AM3461. (Legislative Journal, page 1380.)

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Hartnett, you are recognized to open on...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I...the long awaited income tax. If I follow what everybody else has done before, Senator Beutler and Senator Brashear, we'll debate this for four or five hours and then I'll withdraw it, but I...I don't know. Basically, in this state we have...the state government has two taxes they can deal with, the sales tax and the income tax. We also have some impact on property tax as we change the levy, especially with schools. And where this idea came from for mine is that when we didn't, and I didn't support the \$1.10, when we had this the other day, we were going to raise the school tax from \$1.05 up to \$1.10, and that's about \$50 million. That's where...and that's what, and so I asked the counsel of the Revenue Committee to put together a plan for two years that would raise approximately \$50 million a year, and that's what I've done. That's where I'm coming from with it. In 1997, this Legislature lowered the income tax 4.4 percent. I had a bill last year, and we did permanently raise it to half that rate, and I don't know the bill numbers, but last year I had a bill that would increase, or go back to the 4.4 percent. We talk of the two that we have direct control of is sales tax and income tax. To me, the sales tax is a regressive tax. It's regressive. It hits the poor