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make up the gap in federal revenue that occurs when they allow these good people, who are going to donate to charity, deduct for what they gave. Then these supposed noble givers are going to get credit for having given so much. I am going to fight this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) The floor is open for discussion on amendment FA17, an amendment to FA15. Senator Landis, you're recognized.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and welcome and congratulations on your ascension to your position. I start my discussion with LB 28 by issuing a public apology to my friend Senator Connealy. As Hamlet says, "I shot my arrow o'er the house and wounded my brother." I made an impish and inappropriate comment about the timing of the bill coming up on Monday as perhaps being strategic, and it was far from that. It was inappropriate and I apologize to Matt. I don't think it was in any way, in fact, strategic on his part that that was the case. Now, first the bill, then the Pederson amendment, then the Chambers amendment to the amendment. Institutionally, I serve as the Revenue Chair and we are, over time, committed to the idea of maintain the base. It wouldn't make a difference if it was Bob Wickersham or Vard Johnson or other Chairmen of the Revenue Committee. They're likely to stand up and say, you know what, let's protect the base when we can. And that's their normal default position and the reason is, for all of the noble purposes that John, I think, listed, and they were many, I'd have to say that Medicaid, Health and Human Services, the university, the Game and Parks, the child welfare agenda, the criminal law administration, the use of the National Guard, the locking up of the violent offenders, the use of health services that we fund through the General Fund are the highest and best purposes that we can use tax dollars for. They're justifiable, legitimate, appropriate expenses that we ask people to take money out of their pocket, put it into a communal pile and then buy public goods, and those public goods are important. We don't ask for money for unimportant things, and we spend money for very critical social purposes that serve big, big social ends--education, health, the welfare of our children, the future of our state, the safety of our citizens and the safety of our