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January 9, 2006 LB 542

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I thought conservatives didn't like to increase the size of government.

SENATOR BURLING: We don't.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I thought they didn't like to increase the amount of money that taxpayers have to spend for government activities such as this.

SENATOR BURLING: Generally we don't.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But this time, because it's yours, you're departing from your conservative ways and becoming a wild-eyed liberal, correct?

SENATOR BURLING: That's because there's a possibility that because of this you can save some money in the long run.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you would spend good money...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...based on the possibility of getting more good money?

SENATOR BURLING: We do it all the time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm asking you what you're doing with this bill. See, a wise person would not send good money after bad. There are commissions that have done this kind of work before. They have undertaken studies. Nobody can say that the tax system in this state is fairer than that in other states, or fairer than it has been in the past. So the mere studying, the mere producing of reports, is not, or are not the things that will ensure a better, more efficient tax system. Would you agree with that? Let me ask it a different way. Will the passage of this bill ensure a more efficient, fair tax system in this state?

SENATOR BURLING: It won't ensure. It depends on what the Legislature does with the report.