

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose this. First of all, these groups don't pay taxes, period. All they have to do to be given that boon which others are not given is to file every four years. I don't think this is onerous. When you have some of these nonprofit organizations, sometimes, Senator Warner, it boils down to sheer incompetency; maybe negligence of the grossest variety. But, in other words, if somebody is going to be excused from the obligation to pay taxes for services the benefits of which they receive, and all they have to do is file a piece of paper, and they don't do it, they shouldn't ask the Legislature to take it more seriously than they do. The majority of those who can get this exemption, obviously, file for it in a timely way. I'd like to ask Senator Warner another question, because I'm not sure of the answer to this. Senator Warner, I'm sympathetic to Malone Center because of the kind of work that it does or purports to do, have they had this problem before in the past?

SENATOR WARNER: That I cannot indicate to you, Senator. Simply, I do not know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. I am going to oppose this amendment and I don't think that it encourages people to be attentive by the Legislature repeatedly changing the law to accommodate them when they have been simply negligent or incompetent. If every church failed to file, let them pay their taxes. Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. Caesar does not want to seize anything without having given full notification. Those people who are asking that this be done are in a position which I understand. If I had blundered, stumbled, fumbled, and dropped the ball for no reason whatsoever other than I had butter on my fingers, I would be embarrassed, and if I could get somebody to rectify the situation, I would do it. But I don't think that the Legislature should change the law in this manner under these circumstances.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the body. I rise to oppose the amendment. I am not going to be quite as brutal as Senator Chambers but I am going to indicate that I think in a sense he is right. If every time somebody makes a mistake we have to pass a law to correct it or to take...make special provisions for them, I think it would take