

more on the phone bill is nothing. They don't even pay attention to it. But there are people who are struggling to make it and this Legislature continues, in a way that I call craven and cowardly, to take these hidden taxes and apply them to people and say, well, they won't know. We don't want them to know. We're doing it in a way where they don't know and they can't do anything about it until we stick the knife in. The methodology that they've provided that they say is for public input, public officials know, Senator Hillman, that not many people are going to show up to those things. People, a lot of times, don't even come to school board meetings when they're talking about setting a mill levy for educational programs or talking about educational programs to be implemented. We, as practical politicians, know that the public is not going to come to these gatherings and that's why we'd rather say have a public hearing instead of saying put it to a vote where you've got to tell them, we're going to tax you. But that's the methodology that the Legislature often uses. To be quite frank, it's nice to have something so easy, so underhanded, so hidden as a methodology by which to gouge the people with a tax that you don't want to call a tax, but I'm opposed to it. I feel I have constituents in Lincoln. You know why? Because I'm the third best legislator they got, I meant that's what they voted, that's what they said. They asked them, top legislators, there I was. I have an obligation to my Lincoln constituents and I'm trying to discharge that obligation. You all, obviously, will vote this down because you believe in stealth taxes, misnamed fees, but I don't. Senator Vrtiska knows that I'm opposed to these fees but he also knows that my opposition to the bill on those general grounds was done on General File, if that's when the last place was that we discussed it, so I'll let him know I'm not going to renew that battle here. I'm trying to represent the interests of all the people in Omaha, Lincoln and throughout this state who have to face these stealth taxes. I lost the battle for the rest of the people in the state. I was asked by my constituents in Lincoln to do this for them and I have undertaken to do it. This is another example, as I said, Senator Hillman, where my anatomy has more footprints of my fellow colleagues than this floor. I've been walked on, Senator Kristensen, all session and you started the stampede this morning. I have to accept my whippings when I get them straight up. There is nothing I can do except accept it. But I wish...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.