

can either have this discussion today or the state can have this discussion later. But I'll suggest to you that later, if the petitions go through and they do what they're intended to do, they're going to force you to either raise taxes, have drastic cuts in services, or they're going to force you to do away with local control. None of those are particularly good options, none of those are good, but I'll tell you the state, unless they begin to focus on the same discussion we're doing this morning, they're going to force us into that policy decision.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: It's unnecessary, and it's not good for the state, those petitions pose tremendously serious problems for our state. Now we can take the chance that they'll not pass or they'll get on the ballot and we'll trust that some interest groups will spend lots of money to defeat them. But I would hope as you go back to your committees that you take a look at the fundamental questions that I pose, and I think that you're going to find that we're going to have to do major cuts, major tax increase, or serious inroads into local control. That's if you're serious about property tax relief. If not, our activity today is for nothing. So I would hope that as we wind down this discussion, as you go through and look at each bill very carefully, and, Senator Beutler, I may support some version of what you're doing here, drafted correctly, but I like the idea that you propose with this second amendment, that we are going to have to make some very difficult decisions. Don't let people off the hook by just saying my property tax is too high...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...and I want to raise my sales or income taxes and let somebody else pay for it. It's not that simple.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, Senator Chambers, I'm surprised at you. I thought that this was a good discussion and seeing as in the past you've made the observation that the psychology of the Legislature is critical and you are a master of that observation, I thought maybe you would recognize the value in what I think can be in here in this discussion, and