

CLERK: 26 ayes, 7 nays on the motion to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has ceased. Senator Beutler, do you wish to close? Senator Landis, you are going to close? Go ahead.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, although there probably will be three votes for this amendment, I do want to speak to it because I think it offers a very rational and fair approach to the solution we find ourselves in, the problem, rather, we find ourselves in. Let me address some of the arguments that have been used in the last several minutes. The idea of breaking promises to the cities and counties, I guess the proposition that Senator Kahle proposes is really to break only certain promises, that we should break promises to University students, we should break promises to the mentally retarded, and we should break promises to ADC recipients and the poor, but God forbid we should break a promise to the cities and counties who are sitting out there with personal property relief funds from the state. The proposition of our amendment that if we are going to suffer loss everyone suffers at least some of the loss, and by making it wider, you also make it shallower in the effect of that sacrifice. I don't think we need to pick and choose among promises made and kept. The fact is we are in a new economic situation. We all need to tighten our belts. I also want to reiterate that the amount of sacrifice required of these people is minimal. I don't think there is a city in this state that can't cut their budget one-tenth of one percent. That is the situation we are asking them to do by this amendment and I don't think that is an onerous burden and I don't think there is any of us in here who don't think that that can't be accomplished without an increase in tax rates. With respect to the idea that the community colleges are singled out, the singling out occurs in the Governor's proposal, not in ours. The innovation in our amendment is to affect everyone, not community colleges, but all political subdivisions that have their hand in that pot. Now if there is some inequities perhaps because the Governor has singled them out for special treatment but that can't be laid at our doorstep. That lays at the Governor's doorstep. I wonder how Senator Nichol is going to respond to the Governor's proposal when it comes up for voting and whether he is going to be concerned for the community colleges on that proposal or not. Lastly before I turn over the last couple of minutes of the closing to Senator Wesely, I just want to indicate to this body this proposal is made in good faith. It is made because we think that there