

know it was this bad, but if we were to shift enough money out of the budget to put ourselves at the Plains state average of property taxes, we have to find \$280 million. If we were to put ourselves to the lowest in that region, we have to find \$560 million. So I think it is really important that we decide how much relief is appropriate, how far do we want to go. It is clear to me that 50 million is a spit in the ocean and we are going to have to set a goal that is realistic and then go about the process of figuring out what is the best way to do this. I would secondly suggest that we are probably all going to have to curb our temptations to spend on anything else if we are to get there, simply because of the huge competing nature of this beast against anything else. I, personally, don't have any problem with doing that. I am willing...I think Senator Withem wants us to take a blood oath that we are for property tax relief. I think we are going to have to take a second blood oath and that is we are not for spending money on anything else, at least for awhile. I am already agonizing trying to figure out how do you do the proposal for teachers salary increases, which I would really like to do, but I don't see any way of paying for it. If you do property tax relief, there certainly is no way to do that. So we will have a long list of priorities there that we all care deeply about and we are going to find that we are unable to fund any of them if we do property tax relief. As I said, I think property tax relief is important enough to say that,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...but I think we all have to think about that. So I am grateful for the chance to talk about this. I am glad that Senator Withem dreamed this up and I would urge us to try to set that goal and then get on about exploring the various mechanisms that we might have to do to meet it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, some people have expressed surprise that I have signed on to this resolution but I think it is very consistent in that I have been interested in property tax relief for some time, and as many of the members of the Appropriations Committee that have spoken this morning, this certainly is not going to solve the property tax problem. I think what this does do is say to this body, are you serious about property tax relief, and if so, let's show it today.