

Fifty million dollars is not a lot of money, and on the two-year basis, a hundred million dollars is not a lot of money, when you talk about \$1 billion in total property taxes collected in the state, but it is a start, and it leaves the unanswered questions as to whether some other state priorities are not going to be funded by that amount or are the tax rates going to have to be increased one way or another in order to cover property tax relief. It leaves those questions, admittedly, unanswered. It also leaves unanswered the question of how that money would be distributed, of what method of property tax relief are we going to eventually pass, and some of us are going to have varying ideas on that issue, and we may not in the end agree on that. And some of us who are supportive of this may not agree on the manner in which it is distributed and will vote against it in the end. But to me it makes sense to say to this body and to say to the state that we are interested in property tax relief. This is a step in that direction, and Senator Warner's numbers are interesting in that it says that if there is an additional \$50 million, and assuming that all reduces property tax, for one year the property tax increase is 1.72 rather than 6 percent, and then it goes on beyond that at the 6 percent increase. But we must note that that is 6 percent of a lower number. That is 6 percent of a lower number, so the effect is perhaps just a little bit more dramatic than is indicated in there. And, of course, \$50 million is the number that is thrown out as has been indicated. To be of significance, it has to be more than \$50 million, more like \$100 million at a minimum, and it has to be on a continuing basis so that the increase in property tax is reduced on the long term. So I really think this, as has been stated, this is a test. This is saying to this Legislature, are we seriously going to look at property tax relief? If we are, we are going to set aside \$50 million to do it. We don't know exactly how we are going to do it. We are going to argue that later. We don't know exactly how it is going to be funded, but we are going to have \$50 million to start this project.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before proceeding, Senator Rod Johnson would like to recognize Dr. Marjorie Miller (phonetic) of Central City who is serving as doctor of the day, on behalf of the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Miller, we welcome you to the Legislature. Thank you. A motion on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to suspend Rule 2, Section 2 so as to allow for the amendment of the