

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...have come into play. Indigent care is a ten million dollar, twelve million dollar package coming out of the Health Committee here in the next few days. Counties now pay for that. Only four states, I think, have counties pay anything toward indigent care. Local functions that ought to be state functions are another part of the question of property tax relief. Ag land valuation has divided this Legislature and is an important part of property tax relief. Property tax exemptions, the railroads, and others out there, are going to be an important question to look at in property tax relief. I think you have got to look at all these issues. You have got to let the Appropriations Committee deal with their issues. You have got to let Revenue deal with their issues. You have got to let Education deal with their issues. You have got to let Health and Human Services deal with whatever issues we have, and every committee has got something that ties into this issue. Let them all do their job. Let them all bring their issues to the floor. Let the marketplace of the 49 of us determine what is the best idea, what is the best approach to deal with this property tax issue, and with tax relief in general. I think that is the better approach to take.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Back to the regular speaking order, Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Chizek and Korshoj.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, I hope I can find the words on this Monday morning to get across the points that I would like to. First of all, in comment to some of the things that Senator Moore and Senator Warner stated earlier this morning, both gentlemen who I respect very, very highly, maybe this will dispense some of the things going around that says there is a group of people that seem to always agree and vote the same way. Hopefully, this will dispense that this morning. Senator Moore mentioned that Senator Withem has put us in a very tough position, because if we vote for the bill or the motion, certainly, there is going to be some appropriations responsibility that comes with that. If you vote against the proposal, it would appear that you may not be in support of property tax. And Senator Moore is right, it is a very difficult position, and I was intrigued by his parliamentary maneuvers to try to finagle himself out of that difficult position. The point is that the Legislature has been