

School District I am certain have heard and will hear more even this Saturday. I think that every journey begins with a single step. This journey on property tax must begin with this step here today. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj, followed by Senators Elmer, Withem, and Schmit.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, I think the time is now to go on record that we are in favor of giving some property tax relief. It is probably the most important issue we have in the state today. Last Tuesday night I went up to Oakland, Nebraska to a Chamber of Commerce meeting and Senator Chambers was the keynote speaker, and the only speaker, incidentally, and to show you how important this is everywhere I go, I went over to say "hello" to the Mayor of Oakland. Without even talking about the weather or anything else, he said to me, Frank, we have got to have some property tax relief, and then he said, introduce me to Ernie Chambers. That was the most important thing on his mind was property tax relief. It doesn't matter what group I have been before, they ask for property tax relief. Maybe this is not the right way to go about it. I think it is. If we let the system work like Senator Wesely suddenly has had a change of heart and wants to let the system work, I will tell you what is going to happen to this bill, and I am not saying anything against Appropriations, but I will guarantee you we had better get our black suits and ties on, because it will be buried until the 15th of May. It won't see any daylight. Then we will say we will get it next year, we will get it next year. Next year never ever comes. Looking over the Governor's budget, she makes no provisions for property tax relief, and she says she has listened to the sounds of the prairie, the whisper of the prairie. Well, the prairie says let's have some tax relief. She doesn't hear that message, so she is listening to a different part of the prairie than I hear. I think that we should go on record today and find out who really is interested in this issue and who is not interested in this issue. It is before us. The time is now, right now. So I am going to support it all the way. Fifty million is just a drop in the bucket, it is just a beginning, and I think that if we will set this much aside, we will easy find another 50 million if it is a half a percent increase in the sales tax, well, we are going to have to do it. That is where I stand on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.