

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Gavel.) The house is not in order. Senator Weihing, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I, in my original comments, I mentioned that this would help bring about equality because certain counties have to pay a much larger amount with regards to indigent people in the fact that they are attracted to them by the hospitals or governmental centers that they may have. It has led over to that of relieving property taxes, and it does to an extent. Let us take a county budget, and what does the county commissioners have to work with. They have what is left over after what the schools have taken out. The schools will take, on an average, 65 percent of all of the property tax revenues. May even take more within certain counties. So that leaves about 35 percent for that county to be run on on all areas of government within the county. So, when we are talking about some relief there within the county in this case, we are talking about a relatively small amount, and that small amount, it means more to those county commissioners than simply that total budget of which 65 percent is already allocated to the schools. So there can be, even though the amount may not seem all that great. And I do want to point out that out in the greater part of Nebraska you have more of the indigents going where the hospitals are, such as in Lincoln County, down in Red Willow County, McCook, and Scotts Bluff County in the far west, and they do have to have a higher burden per person there than they do in the lesser populated counties where they are really not able to take care of them. Thank you. I do hope you will be able to feel free to advance LB 187 to Select File.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise I guess to kind of express some of my concern at this point that as we start to move some very big bills, and this is a very big bill, it is an important issue, and it addresses a concern that the people in my area have and, obviously, people in Omaha have, and it is a statewide concern. I was kind of sitting here jotting down the kinds of issues that we are beginning to hear about that people want to do this session. And while it is true we have some money to spend, I think if we continue to take these bills piece by piece, all of which are standing alone good ideas, that very quickly we are going to be at an unmanageable