

some respects, looking at this as property tax relief. Twelve million dollars, obviously, isn't much property tax relief, and so I think you need to kind of put that in the context of the discussion we had earlier when Senator Withem raised the bill, attempted to raise the bill that would do 50 million. It is a complicated issue. It would be nice for us to be able to say, I can just vote for all these things because they are good things, and this deserves as much attention as anything else, but if we just continue to kind of float along and merrily advance these things to Select File, you are creating a problem for all of us at the end of the session as we try to finally sort out those final priorities. You are creating a real problem, I think, for Senator Hall and the Revenue Committee if they have to go out and not only not do what the Governor has proposed in terms of income tax but, in fact, find new money. So I just... I rise at this point I guess just to kind of say, now is the time to start thinking about what your own personal spending priorities are and start reflecting...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...those priorities in the votes you cast on this floor.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey has a guest under the south balcony, some members of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce with their leader. Would you people please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us this morning. Additional discussion on the advancement of the bill, Senator Smith, followed by Senator Nelson. Senator Smith, please, discussion on LB 187. Senator Nelson, additional discussion on 187. Senator Smith, please, followed by Senator Nelson and Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker, Senator Lynch, could I ask you a few questions, please. I have been listening to the conversation surrounding this whole issue this morning, and was interested to hear what you responded to when you talked to Senator Hartnett, and now I would like to pursue that just a little bit further here regarding how this process would work. And then my next question to you is in reading the explanation as far as the amendments are concerned, talking about the payment rates would be set by the Medicaid rate unless the contract with the Department of Social Services was for a different amount, my next questions would be, are hospitals and