

opposed nay. The question has been called. Have you all voted? Have you all voted to cease debate? Record.

CLERK: 22 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate does not cease. Senator Dierks, further discussion?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, it's interesting the conversation, the tone of the conversation from the introducers because it looks to me like this would make their bill more acceptable. You actually are presenting us with a bill that is extremely difficult to determine the funding mechanism, and yet this amendment would simplify it completely because it allows the state to take care of that for you. It also gives this body an opportunity to provide property tax relief in the form of state aid to education, which I think we're all interested in. I have a little difficulty with the fact that it's being called a bad amendment, because I don't think it is. I think it is a very valid amendment, and I'm very serious about it. There is no way that I believe if you sat down and talked to yourself about this that you can't convince yourself that this is something we should provide for the voters of our districts. The word we're getting, and I think most of you are, is that we're moving too fast, that 183 is going along too fast and we need to put the brakes on it. At this point I even question that it's going to get on through. But in order to help the bill, in order to make it more appetizing to the people in your district, I think you should be very supportive of this amendment because it does allow you to say, look, folks, if this bill is going to pass, we're going to at least provide you with some property tax relief out there. It does, in fact, do that. So really when you examine your own conscience and decide what your own people want, I don't believe you can actually refuse to support this amendment because it does do exactly what your people are asking for. With that, I'd just like to urge your accepting this amendment and attaching it to LB 183. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I've not spoken on this bill. Maybe I shouldn't begin. But my comments are not in any way in relationship to the Dierks amendment, but I've listened to the comments made by many of the supporters of