

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Okay, so you answered my question. We do not need to do it at this time. We can do it down the road. You told me over and over, okay. Thank you. You too, Senator Hartnett, thank you for your time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, your light has reappeared, followed by Senators Smith and Hefner.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, first I want to apologize to Senator Lynch if he feels that I'm...I don't think he feels I'm trying to hurt his bill, but he feels I don't understand the order of priorities, but I want to just say this. I have had in Revenue Committee for 15 years proposals to raise the sales tax to an amount that is equivalent to giving some substantive property tax relief and when I can get one of those bills out of the Revenue Committee, then I'm not going to have to do this sort of thing. Secondly, I do not consider teachers to be second class citizens and I have many expensive habits which I don't apologize for. I don't consider this to be an expense. I think it is something which has to be funded and I'm willing to stand up here flat-footed and say so. I'm willing to go back to my district and say so. I'm willing to say it in Senator Lynch's district or anybody else's district. The point blank truth is that we are like kids in a candy store with a dime in our pocket and looking at \$10 worth of candy. And, Senator Lynch, we've seen this happen before, that when it gets right down to the buying the candy, we don't have the funds for all we want and we're going to have a little difficulty. And so what I am trying to do, and I'm trying to point out, that this bill is a good investment, but it's not a good investment unless you've got the money there and it's there in perpetuity. And so I hope that we don't get a flurry of activity between now and the time the bill comes up on the floor again and say, oh, no, we want a clean bill, we want a bill without any funding, we want a bill with an ideal concept and then we'll go back to the trough and try to get our share out of there. What I'm saying is this, and everywhere...this is going to be sort of an open season, I suppose, but I'm telling you to look at it seriously. I seriously thought about putting 2 percent in there because that's what I asked for in the Revenue Committee and I recognize that most of it is going to schools and that's where you go for property tax relief, that's where you go if you want to improve programs, that's where you go if you want to improve teachers' salaries and do it in the manner which, as Senator Lynch has