

designed. Now if this gets to be an open season and we try to take care of the whole problem, you're going to break up in disarray and I am not going to take responsibility for the destruction of the bill. I'm saying you've got a reasonable approach here. A number of senators have risen and supported the idea and I've had my bills addressed by various members of this body from time to time with some constructive amendments that have made them better bills, a few times they haven't, but sometimes they have. And I am asking you, I'm asking the representatives of the teachers, I'm asking all of you to seriously consider this amendment and not think that you're going to be able to traipse merrily along till about the 80th day and then say, yup, we've got plenty of money, let's go ahead and do it. If we do that, I predict we're not going to succeed. I think that right now we have the opportunity to address the issue and to do it in a forthright way and, Senator Lynch, I agree with you. There is a tremendous tendency from time to time on this floor to point the fingers at schools in general and teachers in particular and say, that's where all the expense is. But none of us want to look in those directions where we, as a Legislature, mandate certain responsibilities upon the educators and upon the systems, be it the school busing, be it the lunch program, be it many other programs we mandate and then say, well, after all, go find the bucks. I know where the money is going to come from if, in...as long as we pass the program and all else fails, right back onto locals and then your local school board is the bad guy and I don't want that to happen. I have, for years, been strongly an advocate of moving a substantial portion of the cost of education to the sales tax...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...system. With the passage in 1987 of 773 we took a different direction on income tax. This morning's newspapers, if you look on page 2, you will find, believe it or not, a little headline that says, analyst, tax cut on gains aids the rich. Big surprise, isn't it? We've decided that the income tax is a sacrosanct area, we're not going to touch that, so the only place that is going to get the money is the sales tax. Now I have a couple of little ideas there. So far I haven't done so well on that. But you're going to have to have money, you're going to have to have a substantial amount and you're going to have to have it on a continuing basis if you're going to fund this program, and so I hope that we don't break up in disarray and all of us go back home and I'll not say pout,