

of my people and tell them why I did it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President. Debate ceases. On the amendment to the amendment, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the amendment to the amendment is...was merely my attempt to make the Schmit amendment operational. I'm not sure that this even does it itself. Hopefully, the intent will be clear and we can deal with it later. The Schmit amendment, as I understand it, raises one cent sales tax as half of that money will go into the Educational Excellence Fund, the other half into the Salary Increase Account, two accounts that were both created by LB 89. The Property Tax Relief Account was stricken by the committee amendments. The...my amendment to the committee amendment...to the Schmit amendment merely puts the Schmit amendment back into shape where it is possible to make it operate. I guess beyond that I haven't spoken on the Schmit amendment. I, honestly, haven't made up my mind how I'm going to vote on it. On one hand, it is very appealing to say, yes, we solved the problems. I can kind of remember, Senator Lynch made somewhat of a joking reference to LB 662 and how we had this great sense of accomplishment as a body when we adopted the one-cent sales tax on LB 662, ended up being the death knell of LB 662. On the other hand, I'm very encouraged and I hear people like Senator Jacky Smith stand up and says, yes, she is willing to do this, she is willing to do this if one-cent sales tax goes on to fund it, that it will be a worthwhile sort of thing to do and may, in fact, bring strength to the bill. So I'm not sure. People are going to have to make up their own mind. It is not my attempt to either help or hinder the Schmit amendment through this amendment. It is merely an attempt to make it operational and to make it function and, hopefully, that was understood by everybody that a vote for this amendment does not necessarily commit anybody one way or another on the Schmit amendment itself when it comes to a vote. I would urge you to adopt this amendment.