

kind of money attached to it so that we know up front where we are, where we're going. I would suggest that later on if we get this far, that there ought to be a better mechanism for handling the property tax relief. I'm not sure that I like the system which is in the bill or which is included in the amendments. But I can tell you one thing that if you don't put the price tag on there...and I don't see anything wrong with that, I don't see anything wrong with it. We're not hiding what we spend for roads. We're not hiding what we spend on the university. I don't see anything wrong with putting the price tag up there. I had some phone calls, people were complaining about the price tag. I said why didn't you complain before? The money...the cost is there. The cost is there regardless of how you do it. I said when 361 went across the board with a tax increase we don't know how much it's going to be, 10 million, \$50 million for certain classes of taxpayers. No phone calls, no one says, aye, yes or anything else. We talk about LR 2CA which is going to, if it becomes part of the Constitution, going to require another massive adjustment in taxes, some up, some down. The one thing that the people, I think, will not tolerate is not being honest and forthright. Lay the law out there, put it out there where they can see it. Lay the price tag out there and defend it on that basis. What the people are tired of is having us mandate a program, mandate an idea and then say, well, we don't have the money at the state level, shove her back to the counties, shove it back to the school districts, shove it back to the cities. We have done it time and time and time and again. I am willing to do it up front. I will take the blame for it. I will take the heat for it. If there's any credit, there will be plenty of people volunteer to take the credit for it. I don't expect that. But what I'm saying right now is that the cost is there, the dollar cost is there regardless of whether you finally adopt the Schmit amendment or anything else. You're not going to hide that. It's not going to be one penny less. The difference is going to be, Senator Wesely, how much money is left in that pot...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for you to get your dipper into at the end of the session. I would suggest the pot may be more empty than you believe. Secondly, I'm looking down the road two, three, five years, I want the money to be there. I want the money to be available for that program so that we do not then say, well, yes, we mandated a program for a little while, now you folks