

the end of two...a significant reserve left after two and three years, that we really don't need a penny sales tax to do all of this. The argument that I used early in the session, I think is true today, will be true when we vote on the budget at the final vote that there will be room in our budget, in our reserve for a hold harmless type of property tax relief this year within the existing budget. If you want to raise sales tax to fund the teacher portion of the salary, that's a policy decision you ought to consider. I don't think within the surpluses that we have, the revenues that we have, if you want to do a hold harmless through either this bill, if that's your choice, with a \$50 million type of property tax state aid increase to...the goal being to lower property taxes, you can do that. If you want to do Senator Chizek's bill with the homestead exemption, you can do that. If you want to do the Governor's proposal...I don't happen to think that's the best drafted proposal, but I think there is money in the budget, you can do that. I think you can do that in any way, shape or form. To raise sales taxes one cent to raise 104 million, \$106 million to go into the various funds, when we don't need that money, is not...is not rational policy. So what my amendment does, very simply is it reduces the Schmit amendment increase from one cent increase down to half a cent increase. With that, I would answer anybody's questions. I will be speaking again when I get my thoughts a little better collected, but, in general, that's what the amendment does.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, please, followed by Senator Nelson, and then Senator Moore. Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, I really punched my button because I thought I would call for the question but it's obviously way too early for that so I will ask a question of Senator Withem to see if I have this correct. Under your proposal, Senator, half of the half-cent would go for teachers' salaries and half of the half-cent would go as state aid to schools. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: Under my proposal, the...the additional...under my proposal, the bill would still appropriate \$40 million for the teachers' salaries, \$50 million for state aid. I think that can be funded with half a cent. So that's the intent of what I'm proposing.

SENATOR LAMB: So the amounts of money that would be supplied