

Grand Island. But, remember, it's a total of 610 letters that I received. I have never received that many letters in the 13 years I've been here on one issue. The polls show, the other day, that the people in the State of Nebraska are screaming for property tax relief. Hopefully the Revenue Committee has put out enough bills and we will possibly have another one that we will discuss today that will give property tax relief to the residents or the homeowners in the State of Nebraska. I am voting for the Schmit amendment only because it does include at least a half cent sales tax for property tax relief. But I do wish that you would stop by and see the people in your district that have wrote to me in regard to LB 346. We also must some day think and hopefully LB 346 some day will be passed, even if it has to go to the courts to determine whether or not it's constitutional. Every time we do something for the public schools then the private schools, of course, have to increase the salaries. We will never have the programs in the private schools that the public schools have. I can recall in 1976, I asked the Lincoln School District to give me the list of programs that they had in the Lincoln School District. I don't know whether they still continue the programs, but it started out with scuba diving, the art of barbecuing, listening to music creatively, I'm trying to think. There was about 15 programs that I could hardly believe we would be teaching in our private schools and yet depriving the teachers of an increase in salary. Every time you have a program, and it was listed under graduation requirements, by the way, some of them were five credits for nine weeks, we have to hire a teacher to do it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. I urge the members of the Legislature to support the amendment and at least give us one-half cent for property tax relief. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek. Thank you. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, we're finally getting to a vote on the Schmit amendment. I guess I say finally, I'm one that offered a number of amendments to it, so I'm probably as responsible for the delay as anybody in here. But it's probably good that we're finally getting to the vote on the Schmit amendment. Do we need to raise one cent sales tax to fund the teacher portion of the program? I don't think so, and