

Lamb, who are not always together on certain issues but certainly the light shone such that even they came together and said we think we have found a way to solve the problem. We had Senator Chizek involved with this, along with Senator Moore, and they came up with what they felt to be a compromise of their proposals for an interim. The problem was that the Legislature was not simply going to have property tax for an interim. We wanted long-term, substantial property tax relief. One of the areas that the group was able to come up with, and the body is being pressed to talk about today, is what do we do in the long term, and that is where LB 611 came into play and that is where LB 611 is, why it is before us today. LB 611 basically says in a nutshell, if we are getting somewhat simplistic, I apologize, but the times that we have sometimes we need to be, LB 611 simply says to the Legislature and to the people of Nebraska, listen, if we want long-term, substantial property tax relief, we can't put our head in the sand and say we are going to lower those property taxes and not increase any where else. And we, as a Legislature, I think know very well about what Senator Withem said earlier, that for us to keep pace property taxwise with the major pressure on property tax, that being school finance, we have to find a source that increases equally about 6 percent. One of the things that the Syracuse Study pointed out, and there were good things about the Syracuse and bad things about the Syracuse, but one of the things throughout the state that all people seemed to begin to understand is that many of the areas in our state that are property tax, that are hurting property taxwise have plenty of income. The problem is that in those areas they cannot be taxed. In fact, one of the tragedies we had in this state is there were certain districts that had relative wealth, if you count wealth as not being real property, as talked about by Senator Landis, but the only way that those districts could touch that wealth is through the real property tax or the property tax that we have. Consequently, you had money out there that was desperately needed by school systems they could not attach themselves to. They could not use, and we have school systems in the day that if you compare to other parts of the world is a travesty. It is a travesty of what we have now with the school finance that there is before us. LB 611, in...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...its basic sense, does two major things in my opinion. Number one, it will put the Legislature