

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker and members, the amendment that I have offered I will ultimately be pulling, but I think there is a couple of points of discussion that ought to be brought forward on General File. I will pull the amendment and leave it for Select and keep it alive on that particular basis. LB 84, as its now incorporated with LB 747 I think, is probably one of the most significant strides we've made towards property tax relief in some time. I asked Senator Lamb to allow me to sign onto the bill, and this morning after seeing my amendment I think he had second thoughts. It was...The amendment that I offer is not as hostile or an enemy type of amendment to this bill at all. I would like to see LB 84, as it's amended now, pass and be implemented. I do have some concerns, though, by virtue of the information that we have available to the extent to which we have the funds available to allow LB 84 to be funded and move forward for this interim period, waiting for the ultimate movement on 611, or whatever other technique we have, in a more permanent fashion. What this amendment basically does is it adds a one-half cent sales tax increase, beginning in July of this year, as somewhat of a catch net to put onto the bill to make sure that the funding is there. We've heard numbers, I believe, coming out of the Governor's office that there is about \$50 million there, at least in her plan, that she sees as excess. This bill is, I believe, about \$94 million as we're looking at it. If, in fact, all we have is \$50 million available then a one-half cent sales tax increase, which would amount to about another 27 million for the remainder of this year, would get us pretty well up to speed and bring us pretty close to the numbers that we're talking about. I hear from other sources that there are and will be more than enough funds to cover the 94 million in LB 84 straight up. If that be the case, hopefully between General File and Select File we will be in a position to have that determination, you have some absolute and specific figures in front of us. And if that be the case we wouldn't need the one-half cent sales tax. But I would not like to see LB 84 not ultimately find its way to being enacted into law simply because at some point in time a determination is made that the funding isn't there. To enact LB 84 I would be very willing to add a one-half cent sales tax, because I think it's important enough that we have this much of a transition from the current property tax situation we're in. I think it's also important to go back and look at some of the history of the transition of our tax structure over the years, starting back with a period of time, in 1967, when we dropped the state