

property tax and went to the sales and income tax. We have had...we can't seem to keep up. We allowed the subdivisions literally to have all of the property tax base, we moved to sales and income tax, then as time went on we kept subsidizing that back to the point where now half of the sales and income taxes that we collect are also redistributed, and we still are falling behind in terms of that property tax base. I think we have, in the long-term, some structural things to look at in the way we fund things, the way we administer things at the subdivisional level. I think Senator Moore's provision, relative to looking at a different technique of funding the educational system, is a healthy approach to look at things down the road and ultimately make those kinds of swings. But in the mean time I think we and the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska need some kind of intermediate shift now rather than waiting for a two year period of time. So this amendment was offered primarily for the purpose of making sure that we had a catch net, that the financing was...could be in place if it was necessary to allow LB 84 to pass, make sense, be funded, be supported by the people in this body. I believe Senator Withem has an amendment to my amendment, which probably is even better in line with what I had hoped for yesterday when I offered this particular proposal. That being some kind of a triggering mechanism that if the funding levels dropped, and the reserve levels dropped down to some point, then we would kick in the half-cent sales rather than have date specific. So, with that, I will sit down and allow Senator Withem's amendment to be discussed, and then ultimately I will pull my amendment before Senator Lamb tries to pull my hair out.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Conway amendment? Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, of course I rise to oppose Senator Conway's amendment. He...You know we have this new rule where you have to get permission from the introducer before you can be a co-introducer, and I was very flattered, yesterday, when he came over with the proper form, and I signed it, and then I read in the Journal this morning that he had this little amendment. So it occurred to me, Mr. President, that possibly we should consider another rule that co-signers on a bill cannot introduce an amendment unless it's okayed by the main introducer. I don't know if that would have merit or not, but at least Senator Conway's indicated that he will withdraw the amendment at this time. As has been stated