

going to watch this very closely, listen very carefully to the debate because I don't want to entrap ourselves further in the same kind of a situation. I understand the needs of the cities very much and understand their deep concerns and I share that concern, but we seem to be unable to give direct property tax relief of any consequence for any length of time. We seem to be unable to...I guess resist the impulse to burden the cities and counties with additional responsibilities and the schools and for that reason it may be justified that we do what we are doing here today. On the other hand, it might be a better alternative to take a look at whether or not we should mandate some of those responsibilities to local subdivisions that we have mandated and allow them to make their own decisions and raise their own funds and meet their own obligations. So, at this time, I'm going to withhold my decision on what I'm going to do about the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, Senator Schmit raises an issue with his question that he directed to Senator Schellpeper that I want to alert the membership to and that is one of the things that I have a concern about this bill on although I certainly support the notion of trying to get some help out to communities and particularly rural communities, is that I have thought, as I read the bill, that perhaps the definition of infrastructure was unnecessarily broad. And, in fact, the most appropriate kinds of things to finance through this would be those things such as solid waste management facilities, waste water, storm water, water treatment works, water distribution facilities, which are in the current language of the bill. But I did have some questions about how far we wanted to take that and the particular language that concerned me as far as airports, port facilities, buildings and capital equipment, convention, tourism facilities, and so on. And the reasons for my concern are to make this truly an infrastructure bill I'm going to offer an amendment. I will have it printed in the Journal. I'm going to offer this amendment on Select File. I have talked to both Senator Landis and Senator Schellpeper about it. But I want you to be aware that this is coming so you can think about it because my perception is is my communities can go out and raise money to do a tourist center. Chadron, as a matter of fact, has recently done that. That's not an impossible thing to finance. It's much less easy to run bake sales, lotteries, and so on, to do boring things like solid