

to understand and accept the idea of a tax shift if they see that shift taking place with the bill that basically has endorsed that notion. Now I know it's possible to say, oh, oh, no, it's not 84, it's LB 89. It's the mainline budget. It's something else. Frankly, I have never been in the Legislature when we have passed a \$188 million bill before. In 11 years I have never spent that much money on an A bill or a relief measure like this before and if this is going to mean significant property tax relief, which I hope it does and which I think it does, this is the proper home for adjusting revenues as well. I have done it in as sensitive a way as I can. I think we live on the flush times this year, fair enough, don't make it immediate. Number two, we may not need this. It's possible growth will continue. Midway through next session it's possible to pull the plug on this amendment. It kicks in April 1. But \$188 million can't...you just can't cut that any other way than to say this is the major star in the crown. It's one which I think this body is going to be proud of but it is the major star in the crown this year. It's the new initiative, the major new initiative. It is a tax shift and if you shift taxes like that, this is the place for the public to understand that a tax shift, in fact, costs money and to have them understand and accept that kind of expenditure for a very good reason and to do that I think we need to have a half-cent sales tax increase. That's why I offer it. I know it's late and I know there are challenges that can be made but, in my estimation, this is the appropriate time. I told you on General File I was going to offer it. You have had notice and I offer it now in good faith because this permits me to continue to vote for and support LB 84.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Hall and Senator Rogers.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I would rise in not necessarily support of Senator Landis's amendment but in support of his arguments. I think, clearly, the time has come to recognize significant property tax relief does not happen out of the blue. Significant property tax relief is a tax shift to the income or sales tax or perhaps an expansion of the sales tax to services. We can talk about nipping at the edges and can do some of that but to significantly deal with the issue, as this bill does, it will require a tax shift. I think it's along the lines of the federal problem with the federal deficit. There people talked about dealing with the federal