

deficit without raising the taxes. Well, frankly, if you're really going to attack that problem, you're going to have to have a combination of things happen and that's where we are at today on this issue. But you can't keep promising people property tax relief without a commensurate increase in the income or sales tax. Senator Moore is recognizing that in his piece of legislation which does raise the income tax and then return it to the local subdivisions. I think Senator Landis has brought us to the cutting edge issue of that fundamental point that you can't have something for nothing, that you can't have a free lunch on the property tax issue. I, personally, am not favorable to a sales tax increase. I think we're going to find tomorrow projections out on revenue forecasting that will be up again. The income tax issue is still before us with the next bill that's up and the budget will be released tomorrow as well. I am inclined to suggest that perhaps I am not ready to support the Landis amendment. I am also not ready to see the bill advance because more information and more decisions are about to be made in just the next 24 hours. So I, truly, feel that this is an important issue, one raised in good faith, I'm sure, by Senator Landis and it does come time, I guess, to recognize the reality. I also rise in concern with Senator McFarland's point. I think that Senator Hall and Senator Chizek and Senator Lamb and everybody have worked hard to target the tax relief under the property tax relief plan in LB 84. But, as Senator McFarland raised the issue about equity questions, it comes to mind once again that we will have property tax relief going to the individuals that don't necessarily need it. Whether you have the homestead exemption provision in here or the rebates envisioned in here, there are many companies and individuals who are in no financial trouble that will receive relief under this plan. I still think there are better ideas. A circuit breaker concept of other states where you recognize income levels, ability to pay and property tax levels and then meet the need as it presents itself is a better plan and a better long-term solution to this issue. It also addresses the problem with renters which has been raised as well on this bill. But, in my estimation, this bill has come a long way to compromise, a long way to targeting tax relief and, again, I commend the introducers.

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

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. I would raise a point