

My term that I would prefer to use would be "property tax rebate". I think that's a more clear description of what exactly is taking place in LB 84. Appropriations, in my view, are new buildings, increase in salaries, other proposals that are going to be coming before us when we face the mainline budget bill. This is a property tax rebate. This gives money back to the homeowner. This is focusing in on a problem that we are facing in the state. Now the amount of money that is in the bill is...is significant but I guess what we will have to do is decide whether to have a large property tax rebate to those homeowners or whether we will have other spending appropriations included in our mainline budget bill. At this time, I think it is premature to be discussing any type of tax increase. I don't think that in light of the body not receiving yet the mainline budget bill for consideration, it is a little early and maybe once we have all of the cards on the table, once we make some decisions on what the spending level should be for the State of Nebraska, we can make a more clear decision as to the amount of money that this body will choose to spend and if, at that time, it chooses to spend more than we have at this time, maybe a tax increase would be worthy of consideration or worthy of discussion. At this time, it's premature. I urge the body to reject the suspension...suspension of the rules motion and move the bill on to Final Reading. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, did you wish to speak about the suspension at this time?

SENATOR LANDIS: I said that I would not speak again. Senator McFarland did want to make a...one moment so perhaps let me, rather than take time, offer it to Senator McFarland.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Senator Landis. Mr. President and fellow senators, I would like to make just two points. Remember, that we're talking now here about a matter of procedure. We're not talking about the merits of the sales tax or the merits of the amendment that Senator Landis has proposed. We're talking about whether, in this particular circumstance, the rules should be suspended in order to consider his amendment. And I think there are two basic reasons why they should be suspended out of fairness and courtesy to Senator Landis at this time. The first reason is that this bill is kind of a combination of various concepts, two of them being a