

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: ...more leeway if we go with the one-year?

SENATOR LAMB: Slightly more, although I don't think it makes a lot...real lot of difference.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Korshoj.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I guess I can go either way on this, Senator Haberman. It doesn't make much difference to me whether I go with the one-year sunset or two-year sunset because I have been for property tax relief for many years. And I have been here, this is my 13th year, and every year we talk about property tax relief but it doesn't seem like we get to it. Or if we do appropriate more money for state aid, it doesn't seem like it relieves property taxes, and so I would like to see something. And, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I don't know whether your half a percent sales tax would do the job. And so I think we ought to leave that off at this time because we can come back in another year and see just exactly where our tax receipts are, see where our spending is. I also support a cap. Now, if it's declared unconstitutional, maybe I will change my mind, but I at least think we ought to go for the cap at this time because this would help the smaller property owners a little more than some of the larger ones. Certainly, this is a short-term solution but we need to start someplace. We need to start someplace and this is a start. I have always been in favor of restructuring our property tax system or, in other words, maybe our whole tax system. I know the Revenue Committee, for many years, have talked about a third sales tax, a third income tax and a third property tax. But, you know, it takes a lot of dollars, it takes a lot of dollars to accomplish this. And so...but that doesn't mean that we can't work towards it. Like Senator Warner said, there was \$1.1 billion paid in property taxes so it's going to cost us a lot of sales tax and income tax dollars to relieve property taxes. Like the 94 million we're talking about, that won't even relieve property taxes 10 percent. I didn't support some of the other bills like the teacher pay increase when it first started because that was at 115 million for two years. I didn't support that because my first priority this session was property tax relief and I