

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and Senator Scofield. I appreciate the opportunity and I will try to answer the question as best I can. I look at LB 84 as a stopgap proposal. It is just basically temporary. Hopefully, we will be able to do something in the same fashion again next year. Maybe it won't be at the same dollar levels but, hopefully, it will be near the same proportion and have the same allocation. We have moved across the board LB 611, which is a bill that deals with the issue of the long-term relief with regard to our dependence at the local government level for funding that we rely on property tax to play. I see 611 moving us in the direction so that we make the shift. We are not going to reduce the cost of education, which we rely for 70 percent of our local property tax dollars for to pay, but what we are going to do, hopefully, through 611 and information, hopefully, that results that come from the School Finance Review Commission, that Senator Lamb, Senator Moore, and Senator Withem chairs, provide to the Legislature that we will put in place a shift so that we get nearer to what I think many people have agreed is a good proposal in the example that they have found through the Kansas plan that they have looked for. Of course, that has to be modified so that it fits the needs of the State of Nebraska, it fits the needs of the school children, and the taxpayers in Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: But I see that as where we are going down the road, and what 84 does is it says, look, there is money here to provide a relief. It is, if you will, a stepped up approach. You have three steps to get to the house. Okay, the first step is 1989 property tax relief in the form of 84. Hopefully, next year in 1990, you get to the second step and we will provide as close to this level as possible, and in 1991, hopefully if not sooner, we move up to the porch and we walk through the door, and we make the shift that has to take place so that we do provide a different funding source for education in the area, and we move away from the reliance on property tax at the local level. It is not anything magical. It is not something that will happen overnight, but I do believe that this is the first step that we have to take in order to provide for that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall, your light is the next light as well, do you want to continue your comments or not?