

Select File for amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is, shall LB 84 be returned to Select File for the purpose of an amendment? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the motion to return the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Motion prevails and the bill is returned.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a priority motion. Senator McFarland would move to bracket the bill until Monday, May 8.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow senators. It has been interesting listening to the debate. Obviously, there is not total agreement on this bill. Obviously, there is a lot of suspicion and distrust amongst the members and a lot of questions that have yet to be answered. I am rather perplexed at the whole way this package has been put together. I think from the comments from Senator Hannibal the other day, I think he is rather perplexed as well. I just heard Senator Hall say that this property tax problem certainly cannot be solved overnight. It seems to be, however, that a group of senators are trying to solve the property tax problem over the lunch hour. A lunch hour meeting is held and suddenly, lo and behold, we have the ultimate solution to all the property tax problems in our state. I certainly don't think that this bill is the solution. One of the things that troubles me about it is that it is a temporary solution. It seems to me that what we really should be doing on the floor of this Legislature is addressing the property tax problem in terms of a permanent, long-range tax policy. It is not something where we should go out and squander funds that we have available just to try to make some kind of politically popular appeal to some of the property owners. You know there is a story in the Bible, I am sure you have heard about the prodigal son who had his birthright and he knew that he deserved it and he was going to get it eventually, so he went to his father and said...asked that he be given his birthright at that time so he could be on his own, so to speak. So when the father gave the prodigal son the birthright and all the money and the wealth and the riches, then the son went out and squandered it heedlessly and unwisely, and then had to come back