

here, it is piddling in terms of the relief that should be given, if, Senator Hefner, there was a serious intent to give property tax relief. The amount is not piddling though when it is taken out of the overall budget, and taken from those things that could be given substantial funding based on the need with this amount of money that is being frittered away. It is not going to make a pimple on the ear of the universe, Senator Moore. That is next to nothing. Nobody is going to stay in office because they got this bill behind their name, unless there is a misrepresentation of what it does. The reality is far less than that which presented to the public, and there are parts of the public that are totally ignored by this bill. So we are not talking about fairness in taxation or tax relief, and that was not the intent. When Senator Lamb said the fact that there was not much debate indicated agreement with the bill, or whatever he said, Senator Lamb, most people on this floor don't have the heart to stand up and speak on an issue if it seems that the conclusion has already been arrived at and agreed to by enough to make the measure pass. But I have a concept within myself that I must vindicate. My self-esteem is very, very important to me and I would not have my self-esteem intact if I went along and was bulldozed and stampeded as this body often is on a measure such as this. What I would like to hear is some of those who are working on this bill stand up and tell me with actual figures the substantial property tax relief that the average property taxpayer is going to receive, so that when they get it, good god almighty, that Legislature sure is on the job, and this has helped me. This has really done me a great amount of good. There is something I can do with this windfall that they have given me that I haven't been able to do for years. Can they take a trip with it other than from one side of the state to the other? This is preposterous but it also is typical of what a Legislature does. If you want to give substantial property tax relief, you'd have to raise taxes from other sources. There is condemnation of the federal government for having a deficit and the legislators talking time after time about cutting programs, but they don't want to increase revenue, and when you have a deficit that large, you cannot do anything on it without increasing the amount of revenue. And to give substantial property tax relief, you cannot do it without raising the other taxes, and I am opposed to that but you don't hear me up here yapping about I am giving the public property tax relief, something they have always wanted and something they have been entitled to.