

been the process that is legislation. It's what gets legislation passed as opposed to standing on the floor of the Legislature year, after year, after year, wringing our hands about evil property taxes in our state but never quite getting the issue resolved. I remember last time we were at this debate we didn't talk about it off the floor, and Senator Lamb stood up and talked about property tax rebates, did an eloquent job and he got 20 votes for his proposal. Senator Vard Johnson stood on the floor, said we want homestead exemptions, did an eloquent job and he got 20 votes for his efforts. Senator Wiley Remmers stood on the floor of the Legislature and said, no, we ought to go school finance mechanism. He stood on the floor and got 20 votes for his measure, and somehow that was the right approach, I guess. That's what was right and just because we followed all of the rules and didn't talk to each other off the floor of the Legislature. This isn't a perfect proposal. There are some things, if I were writing the perfect proposal, I would do differently and there are things that probably, again if I had a way of changing them, I would change them. But I think this is probably the best proposal you're going to see before this Legislature, not just this year but probably this decade. Now it's an easy statement to make because we've only got two more sessions in this decade, so it's...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...not all that outrageous for me to say that. But it is a proposal that's come together and one that a majority of the members of the Legislature can feel comfortable supporting as the first step part of the solution. And that's the way legislation is made. Legislation is not made by making grandiose floor speeches on the floor of the Legislature on what the perfect world should look like, it's made by forging compromises, listening to concerns from other sides of the fence, and in forging something together that can benefit a majority of the people in the state and a majority of the people in this body can support. So I think some of those comments about the gang of four, individually any of the four of them may deserve that sort of characterization, but to condemn them for the work they've done I think is unfair. I think that the Legislature deserves...those legislators deserve better than that. So, having said that, it's something I've been wanting to say all day, and I appreciate that opportunity to say it, back to the Chambers amendment. I don't think the Chambers amendment improves the bill. I think that the statement that is in the