

is not the fundamental of how you provide property tax relief, but is this a property tax relief measure, is it simply a tax relief measure, a revenue reduction measure. And my answer is this is not a property tax relief measure, this is an attempt to reduce the surplus to reduce the revenue picture and does not provide long-term property tax relief, there is not a long-term property tax relief solution. So if you approach it from that viewpoint there are other tax relief alternatives that I think are superior to this one, and I understand where we're at right now. I understand there is probably a good solid six of us that have problems with this piece of legislation. I did pass out earlier a quote from Archibald MacLeish. He said, "The dissenter is every human being at those moments of his life when he resigns momentarily from the herd and thinks for himself." I'd like to, at this moment, resign for just three various amendments and try to think for myself on what I believe are better alternatives to this bill. I saw the article today in the Lincoln Star about all the calculations. There basically is a done deal that we've...this is about to pass and you all might as well figure out how much tax relief you're going to be getting next year. And I think that's terrific that we're heading down that road and feeling good about it. But there are some reasons why we should think this through a little more carefully. First off, this first amendment deals with the alternative of having a sales tax reduction rather than having a property tax relief proposal, as envisioned right now in LB 84. I do this for a number of reasons. First off, the sales tax is a regressive tax. So reducing it is a progressive change, it will help all taxpayers, not just property owners. The sales tax is utilized and paid by all citizens of the state to one degree or another. This bill does not help anybody but property owners, and in addition again the sales tax reduction would be a much more progressive change in the tax structure. You do it for one year and you'll provide approximately the same amount of tax relief as this bill now calls for. In addition, in one of the handouts I gave you, there is a blue sheet that indicates the problem with 30 percent of Nebraskans with property tax reduction is that you reduce the tax by a dollar, let's say, you'll have an increase in your federal income tax, let's say 28 cents. So that you really end up without the full tax relief you're talking about for those who itemize. This isn't that difficult to follow and I hope there will be those that will try and share this through the media that you have to understand that for those that itemize there is not full tax relief under this proposal. Now that's 30 percent of Nebraskans. But for