

different and I'm promising you that between now and the time that we adjourn I am going to be giving you a number of different alternatives to deal with where these dollars should be going and where they should be coming from, because I guess I have never done this since I have been in the Legislature, offered amendments that I really don't think will go but are merely for the purpose of making a point and in spending some time talking about things. But I came to such a painful, personally painful consideration of what reality is on this issue and I'm going to attempt to lead some of you into that same consideration. It is foolhardy to add \$18 million of state aid to this bill or to the budget without consideration of where it's coming from. Now I noticed...I noticed on the votes and I'm not so naive as to assume that we have had a lot of born again state aid to education people, I know some of them who claim to be long time supporters of it, sure would like to read back some of their votes on amendments that came up in the last two or three years in the area of state aid. But, suddenly, today they are strong state aid to education supporters. It's fairly obvious why they are. They think it will damage a bill that they don't want to pass. That's part of the game. It's also part of the game that other people can play that same game. I just filed an amendment to LB 84A to take \$18 million out of that bill. That, to me, seems to be an appropriate place to take the money. If you're claiming that \$18 million of state aid to education in 525 is property tax relief, which it may be, substituting for some of those dollars that would otherwise be raised from property taxes, it's there and appropriate that the other property tax relief measure ought to bear the burden of that and I will be pushing that amendment when it comes up. I guess just one other comment I would like to make as I ask you to consider this amendment and I will give some of my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens, who is co-introducer of the amendment, is one more time talk about the frustration on the way in which this issue has been handled. This Legislature, for 85 days, has been moving in a direction that I think will bring about long-term solutions to the problems of school finance. Adding a few dollars of state aid every decade when we have the dollars is not the direction to go. If that's the signal I'm getting from my friends out in the education lobby that that's what they prefer, that's fine, we'll move that direction. Another 10 years from now when we have the surplus we may add another 18, maybe even \$20 million that year if that's the direction they want to go and that's the signal I'm getting from them in here is that they prefer that to the well reasoned, well thought