

out approach that Senators Moore, Lamb, Chizek and Hall, just almost forgot Senator Hall there, I'm sorry, dangerous to offend Senator Hall on the floor here today so I apologize for doing that. If they prefer that approach, the well reasoned approach of using the surplus this year for direct property tax relief through homestead exemption and through a rebate and working toward a long term solution to school finance, I may accept that as their message and their conclusion. I don't think that's the direction to go. We're not going to...Senator Schmit, I made the mistake of listening to your speech there a few moments ago and what I heard was \$100 million is no good, \$100 million isn't property tax relief, the people in your district won't accept that. Yet \$20 million in state aid to education, my gosh, that...people will be beating down the door thanking you for the great relief. A \$100 won't do it but \$20, my gosh, that's great. It doesn't work that way, doesn't work that way at all. And, again, I repeat, you know...if you remember, do any of you remember what happened...we have such short memories in here, last year our Governor, to her credit, was the first Governor in a good number of years that proposed an increase in the existing level of state aid to education. In retrospect, it wasn't a whole lot of dollars. When it was proposed there were members of this body who were criticizing her, saying, my gosh, she's going to break the budget. In retrospect, it wasn't a whole lot of dollars. We added \$11 million last year. How many of you got cards from your property taxpayers or from your local school boards and your school districts thanking you for that? What did you get? I will remind you of what you got. When the budgets came out in August and September all you got was, don't blame us, you know, we're the ones raising property taxes, true, don't blame us, it's the Legislature's fault because they didn't give us enough. And I guarantee you if you appropriate \$20 million, that's 2 percent, 2 percent of the overall dollars that are spent on education. And your school districts go out there with 5 percent increases, 7 percent increases, 10 percent increases, you're not going to get thanked for that 2 percent, you're going to get blamed because you're the big bad state senator down in Lincoln that didn't give enough. You know, this is going to be a cycle that we're going to be on forever and if you just keep adding a few dollars each year, as this particular amendment does, and you don't do some long term solutions, as the Scott Moore's LB 611 is leading us in the direction of doing, you're going to continue to have these problems. The amendment takes the \$18 million and puts that down to a \$1 million increase. With that, I believe this is my opening so