

May 17, 1989

LB 84, 525, 611

there should be some time left to give to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Approximately how much time, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Approximately three minutes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. I shouldn't take that much time and I thank Senator Withem for sharing some of his opening on the amendment. I would like to talk briefly about LB 611 and relate that to the Legislature and some of the tremendous things that we are about to partake in and to set in motion. One of the things that the Legislature, I think, painfully has addressed in previous years and particularly it has come to fruition this year was that we need to reduce property taxes and the best way to do that is to attack the way that we fund education. One of the things that we learned from the Syracuse study that I really don't think we learned but it made it a little bit more apparent was that if we transfer some of the burden on education...if we transfer some of that from property tax areas to other areas, that would be one of the best areas...things that we could do. In fact, if you went to the Syracuse report, they went through every county and school districts and they showed the school districts that were in severe stress now, that if we shifted a little bit to income to try to help that, that all of a sudden those districts were not in severe stress any more, they were not in drought any more, the rains came for that district. LB 611 is beginning a long-term solution for sincere, realistic property tax relief. We have got a lot of work to do on LB 611 after it passes. But LB 611 is truly for long-term property tax, a way this Legislature can move and it will move and it will be substantive, good and productive. Senator Withem struck a cord in me as I remember last year when we passed an increase in state aid, and I would like to remind the body what was top on the issue. After we passed an increase to state aid, the top issue of this legislative body was we have to reduce property taxes, we have to reduce property taxes and we have done a tremendous job of doing that in LB 84 and LB 611. Yes, we have, Senator Ashford.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.