

It is bad. And I'm not going to repeat all of the arguments that have been given against this bill, but you have to consider that it is a political bill making only a political statement not giving any substantial property relief and being grossly unfair to those who contributed to the surplus. Now we are engaging in a bare knuckle political action by suspending the rules at this time to vote the bill. All that we have here is a campaign issue that's going to be used in the future. That's all that the bill is. That's the only purpose it can serve. But were I somebody's opponent, I would say now this is what they're going to boast about having given you and call it property tax relief. That's the best they can do. It's like that lot...the mountain that rumbles and shakes the earth and gives birth to a mouse, much ado about nothing. The reason I am so opposed to it is because it is unjust and establishes the principle that this Legislature intends to be unjust to a large body of tax players to placate a few so that they will have a political issue that they hope will advantage them when they run for reelection. That's all this is. There is not enough courage to put in place a genuine property tax relief bill. There is not the will. There is not the courage. This is an act of cowardice to pass this bill. You should go ahead and make the shift that you've been talking about all the time and put the burden on the income tax and the sales tax. I'm opposed to that, but at least there would be a greater degree of honesty. There would be an appearance of dignity in what the Legislature does because it is honestly and straightforwardly making the shift and on a scale large enough to give what is being promised. If we were the ones to be benefitted by a bill such as this and we feel that we're under a crushing (inaudible) debt and somebody says, I'm going to relieve that debt, I'm going to give you a hundred dollars, you spit in their face. You say, I don't want it. You're not going to get the position of being able to elevate yourself by pretending to help me and you haven't helped me one whit. This is not property tax relief. You all know it. You all know it better than I do because you've talked about it longer. You've postured over it longer, and this is all that you can come up with. There is now a pride of authorship which I can understand. The more time that goes into trying to construct or product anything, the greater personal involvement there is and the more the individual's ego becomes involved and associated and intermingled with that project. So now this monstrosity must be preserved at all costs. But who can boast about what has been done other than the ability to put together a collection of