

people are yearning for in the State of Nebraska. There was an offer of an amendment at that time to have a homestead exemption of \$15,500. It would have provided \$405 of tax relief to each and every homeowner in the State of Nebraska. They would have seen some tax relief at that time. Instead, the paltry amount that we did provide under LB 84 was swallowed up in increases in property taxes. It will be lost even further as we lose the...as increased federal, income and state sales tax result, and, ultimately, it was destined for failure at the beginning. As I said at the time, good politics, bad policy. And that's exactly what we ended up with. But it wasn't even that, it wasn't even good politics, as we have seen the public has responded in a very negative fashion to having a higher expectation of tax relief and then not seeing it brought to fruition. So instead of moving forward in the fashion Senator Moore has talked about in holding the bill back, I would think that this solution, if we're going to send money back in tax relief and actually try and see some of it result where people can acknowledge it, a homestead exemption is the best way to go. And so I would encourage this advancement of the bill. But I think, frankly, the longer term solution to the problem lies in Senator Withem's initiatives on school finance, that school finance is the brunt of the problem on local property taxes, and that we ought to look to long term solutions and quit the short-term political solutions that we saw last year and we're possibly going to see again this year. If we're going to go to a homestead exemption, let's acknowledge it and let's fund it and let's understand it should be far into the future, not something short-term. At the same time, I think school finance is just that sort of long-term solution and one that we need to spend time on. But, clearly, hopefully, if we're going to start talking about property taxes, we'll recognize the failure of last year's initiative and not try and repeat that mistake yet again in 1990.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, followed by Senator Hall and Senator Chizek, Senator Haberman, Senator Warner, Senator Nelson, Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Moore. Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: When you watch the Legislature and you watch the debate oftentimes you find little nubs of agreement with a variety of speakers from across the political spectrum. And, as I listen to this debate, there are areas that I find of agreement with almost all the speakers. First of all, I agree