

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now close? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Hefner, would you care to close?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I want to say first here, I don't know if a three-year lid is the right length or not, but I didn't think that one year was correct because I don't believe that a one-year lid is really a lid, and so I thought a three-year lid would be more realistic and this is why I introduced this amendment. And maybe we should have a permanent lid like the counties have, but if this is adopted, well then, I would like to visit with some of the other co-sponsors of the bill and maybe we can work out something else. Senator Schmit said education in our state is not so good. Well, on some of the things I will agree with him because we hire a lot of high school kids, and you know, some of them can't even write or write so that you can read it. Others can't figure. They carry a little calculator in their hand and maybe that's a sign of the times. I hope not. But I think there is...we need to look at a lot of things in our education system. Senator Schmit, I guess Senator Schmit is too busy, but I think we need to look at the tenure system that we have in our schools. All of our teachers are not good, perfect teachers, but yet we can't get rid of them, same way, reduction in force. I know I have some schools in my district that had to take a reduction in force case all the way to the State Supreme Court and it cost them a lot of dollars and so I think we need to look at this. But I would just encourage you, if you feel like you can support this three-year lid. I realize that it only reduces the property taxes about 15 percent overall and yet we increase the sales tax 25 percent and the state income tax 17 percent. So we want to be darned sure that it replaces that property tax. I would now like to give the rest of my time to Senator Owen Elmer, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. We all know that lids haven't worked very well in the past. We all know that when we