

of the things that I think we need to be up front about right away is that there are some concerns about the constitutional aspects of this amendment and I know Senator Hall and Senator Moore and others will probably raise those issues and so I'm going to anticipate that issue coming up. It's wonderful to get up and talk about the need and concern for the renters, as the Governor has, but it's another thing to try and raise that issue and know that there is a problem in trying to address it constitutionally. It's something that I think is a misleading sort of argument because there is a recent opinion that indicates that this would be a difficult constitutional measure to pass. And I think it's wrong. I think the Attorney General is wrong on that opinion but, nevertheless, it is not simply a magic wand that you snap your fingers and twirl around your head and you take care of the renters. There is some problems here in accomplishing that goal. And so, the Governor raising that objection either didn't know or didn't recognize some of these difficulties that Senator Schimek and I are trying to address. I, nevertheless, feel that we should proceed and try and attach this amendment to the bill. Perhaps it will be the amendment that will bring the Governor back onto the measure and ease her concerns. Now, here's a little more background, about a third of the people in this state live in rental situations, so about two-thirds of the people in this state have homes that would directly receive property tax relief. Then you have also the commercial properties and other types of property, and agriculture, that would receive relief under this legislation. But for those renters out there, there is a problem. I grant you that those individuals are not going to have their rents reduced as a result of the property taxes going down and the owners of that property being in their good-hearted, generous ways, reducing their rent. That simply isn't going to happen. But that didn't happen last year, with LB 84, and that was an issue that I raised last year and was not raised by the Governor last year. All of a sudden she's got a concern for the renters that simply was not there a year ago. I had that concern, though, and I did offer a couple of amendments to LB 84, one of them would have been a tax rebate back to every citizen in the state, under \$50,000 income, so renters and property owners alike would have received that relief. But I didn't hear the Governor talking about that concept. We also had a sales tax reduction as a proposed amendment last year to LB 84, and I didn't hear the Governor talking about that concept. But now, all of a sudden in 1990, election year, there is a new-found concern for that constituency of a third of Nebraskans who are