

be able to take advantage of what is due them. I think it's fair and I think it's just, and I'd urge you to support it. Senator Lynch had his light on for some time, didn't get an opportunity to speak, I'd like to give the remainder of my closing time to him.

SPEAKER BARRETT: About three minutes, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Thank you, Ron. Mr. Chairman and members, I might not need that much time. It's amazing to some of us, at least, that we're debating, for the last few hours on the floor now, and it's been very good and helpful to me, I hope for you as well, about how we can continue the inequity, because we're worried about how it would affect local governments. Think about this, county government in particular, and in most cases school districts and cities, are our creatures, we're their mothers and fathers, so to speak. They can do no more, nor less than what we allow them to do. And we say we can't...to help them we have to continue to...and support inequities at the local level, and it doesn't make sense. Like Senator Dennis Byars, I, too, happened to be a county board member for over 20 years, and was Chairman of the Board of Equalization for a long time, and it was repugnant then, and it's repugnant to me now that justice only prevails for those who can afford it, and we sit here justifying that. If we caused the system to exist on this floor that creates that kind of inequity and injustice, take credit for it, but don't throw up your hands like Pontius Pilate and say we can't do anything about it because it might hurt jurisdictions of government. I was one of them, a lot of us were local jurisdiction officials. That's a weak excuse and, in a sense, to be completely frank, I think a dishonorable one as well. I think, if we can do no better than the way we've talked here just in the last few minutes, in the last hour or two about the Ron Withem amendment, we probably should go home, pack up and go home, because apparently we've endorsed inequity. Depending on whose going to be hurt, who can afford an attorney, that's the criteria that will probably be used to justify whatever passes, if anything passes at all here today, or this week, or during the session. I'd encourage you to not worry about the results of this amendment but about the justice that is inherent in it and vote that kind of conscience, and I think you'll be doing the right thing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You've heard the closing, and the question is the adoption of the amendment to the committee