

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...and that's the reason that you have those things and, at least in my mind, the voters overwhelmingly said, look, the system here needs to be fixed, it needs to be fixed immediately. That's the reason that you have the high number of people approving it. I feel it's a mandate from the people and I think you're right, I don't see a bunch of people out in the lobby. It isn't an issue of money. Somebody is not going to make a ton of money on this. This is a matter of good government, for all practical purposes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, I thank you very much for that. And I guess I...I would like to see us at least consider whether we...whether we want to do it this year. I want to at least plant that idea in people's minds, whether we want to do it this year or whether we want a couple of years to maybe get our fiscal house back in shape before we actually enact it. But, I guess, part of that also depends on how much we feel the people meant for us to enact this immediately...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...and how much the people would feel about it if they knew, and I don't think they all do, the total price tag on this, Senator Kristensen. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. We will now go to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't intend to get involved, at least at this point in time, very much in this discussion on the topic but I do want to clarify a couple of things in the record, at least. For those that are worried about the A bill or concerned about the A bill, I've seen bills, as all of us have, this session, Senator, Jacky Smith had a bill, for example, that had a relatively low, when you talk about the total amount of budgetary authority the state would have on its fiscal biennial budget, relatively low amount that the body has said, no, we're not going to do this, we don't have enough money, there's not much money there. I've seen bills that have been killed in committee or not advanced in committee that are very, very good bills that are very necessary, whether it be for 200,000 or 50,000, they're not advanced because there just isn't the money there. And I think