

solution to our tax problems. First of all, I think it important...it is important that this become a temporary solution and that it does not become the permanent solution. It might be easy in some peoples' minds simply to say do away with personal property tax, up the sales tax, up the income tax. Those are not big deals, nobody will care. That is an easy way to get through with it. This Legislature, for the last 20 years, has looked for easy ways of dealing with tax problems. That is why we are in the situation we are in today. This needs to be a temporary solution. I think with the Schellpeper amendment on it will become...the temptation will be there to make it a permanent solution. Secondly, Senator Smith, I think, made some marvelous remarks a few moments ago, and one of the things that she said was that those folks that are receiving the benefit of the temporary repeal of personal property need to be those that bear the burden of the replacement as much as possible. The average sales taxpayer in this state is not receiving a benefit from the repeal of personal property tax, nowhere near the benefit that they would have to be making up in their additional cost. The third point I want you to remember, this has been a good healthy debate. You have heard from the Chair of the Revenue Committee on a number of occasions, but that Chair is not locked into any specific funding formula for funding what is...funding the amount of funds that will be lost by repeal of the personal property tax. He talked about considerations of lowering the depreciation surcharge, of leaving the Lamb amendment on so that we are assured of looking at some other fundamentals. You have heard that today. The final thing I want you to consider is that the sales tax hits everyone in the state, which might be an okay argument if there were a benefit going to everyone in the state, but it is not the fault of the average citizen that pays the sales tax that we have a messed-up personal property tax situation. It is our fault, yours, mine, the people that sat in these chairs before us, it is our fault. It is not fair for us to make the average sales taxpayer in this state bear that burden. I would urge you to reconsider the Schellpeper amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute. You have heard Senator Withem's closing. We will now vote on the motion to reconsider the Schellpeper amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 13 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to reconsider.