

programs even...as a matter of fact, the 1986 date I think, Senator Wesely, was because the program was originally deemed to sunset and now here it is ten years later and the next sunset is coming up and the bill, LB 582, was the bill designed to keep the sunset from happening. Those two points I wanted to make. I would also indicate this is typically the time in one of these debates where after we have had a disagreement and we've kind of sensed the direction where the Legislature is going, there are occasionally attempts to kind of reach a compromise. And, typically, because I know Senator Beutler cares about this program a great deal, I would be one that would be looking toward some type of compromise, and I respect that that's what Senator Beutler is doing. I don't think I am going to go along with that one because of the impression that I've received through the information that I have gathered that this weatherization program really is one of those that we ought to bite the bullet and just indicate it probably is...it was a good program that's served its usefulness, it ought to go away, and we ought to be reallocating funds for this new Internet project as opposed to creating new ones. I say that I guess, I have been giving it a lot of thought and I attended a meeting last night where there was a lot of, hopefully, thoughtful discussion on our ability as a Legislature to actually grapple with the property tax problem. That will be, I hope, the major responsibility that this Legislature has over the next twelve months. To do that, it is not going to be easy. We have dealt with the property tax issue, bits and pieces, for 30 years now. To solve the property tax problem, we are going to have to impose lids. We are going to have to find alternate sources of revenue. But, maybe more importantly, we, as a Legislature, are going to have to find those programs that have outlived their usefulness and find some efficiencies...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...in the way in which government operates. We have to do that at the local level. We'll have to do that at the state level. We'll have to do that all through government, and it is tough to do that. It is tough to do that because there are real live human beings working in these programs that are impacted by that, and it is a lot easier to say yes to those people, than it is to say no to to them. It is going to be tough, but it is going to have to be part of our process, and I think this is one of those programs that we ought to say no to today. So despite what I recognize as an olive branch by