

SENATOR BROMM: ...the question of salaries I will address that for just a minute. If you're going to have a property tax system and you're going to have a good one and you're going to do it right, one of the main characteristics is to have competent people and good data to work with. And so even though I'd like to...I'd like to turn the screws down as tightly as we can, I think that if we're going to have a good system we're probably kidding ourselves if we think that we're going to hire extremely competent people for a less than adequate salary. And the salary that Senator Vrtiska proposed isn't bad, I mean it's a pretty good salary, there are benefits. I don't know if it's going to attract a high enough qualified person, but I do think you need to be able to do that. And I wish we had some way of knowing what kind of salaries it would take to get the kind of people we need. I'm going to address the bill and the philosophical questions and that sort of thing a little bit more after we get by this amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Dierks would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature today. There are 34 eighth graders here from Newport, St. Joseph's in Atkinson, and Holt County Rural Schools with their sponsors. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Lynch, to speak to the Kristensen amendment. Senator Vrtiska, to speak to the Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Madam President and members of the body, I rose for the purpose of entering into some debate with Senator Chambers and some of the remarks that he made. But after thinking over very carefully I remember what my mother told me when I was a young lad, and she said, don't ever debate with somebody that's smarter than you are because you won't understand them, and don't ever debate with somebody that's dumber than you are because they won't understand you. So, with that, I will relinquish my time and thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President, colleagues, would Senator Kristensen yield to a question?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Kristensen.