

administerial costs or to be given back to those subdivisions on some complex equalization and other formulas. So when we originally separated and took the state out of the property tax business, we said this is fair. Leave the property tax for the cities, the counties, and the local subdivisions of government, and the state will collect income and sales tax. And now through the years, we've talked a lot about property tax relief because many times the mandates from the federal government, as well as from the state, have started new programs in the local subdivisions of government, the cities, the counties, have increased the costs to those local subdivisions, and we also, to be fair, have tried to give back some of our income and sales taxes to those subdivisions of government, again through complex formulas and equalization tries. So now as the years have gone by, and we have talked and we have tried, we actually raised the income tax 17 percent to give back to education, one of those subdivisions of government, and raised the sales tax 1 percent or, excuse me, 25 percent to give back to that local educational subdivision. We have tried to take over various functions that were county given when the original split was, and all we have done is just to make taxation so complicated that people really get confused now when they don't know where their property tax goes and how it is spent. And, you know, as much as we have talked and as much as we have tried to do, I think that this resolution, which I am going to support, is probably a good start, and since we are talking about Senator Beutler's amendment, I do want to say that I think it is a good amendment because it does give you some direction, and it also says that we are not going to do it in the year 1996; it is going to take time to unleash those complicated efforts that...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...we have done in the past. So I do support the amendment. I do support this resolution, and I think that we must start changing our direction. We see this happening at the national level, and I think we better start thinking about it now. And the bottom line of all taxation is the spending, and that is, ladies and gentlemen, where it all begins and where we should all go back to look at is the spending.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Lynch. Senator Lynch to speak to the Beutler amendment. Senator Maurstad.