

any more than we can be sure we wouldn't get a veto now? I mean I think it would be as likely then as now. And maybe likely in both cases, in which case we probably should prepare for this well in advance. Senator Kristensen spoke of the bee hive of activity that would develop if you started talking about sales or income tax, or shifts, or replacements of revenue. Well, to me that just stirs me up in the sense that that's exactly what I'm worried about. That bee hive of activity, why is that going to be any less in two years when we have to do this to save the schools? Is that argument going to go away? Is the chamber of commerce and those who follow that philosophy, are they going to go away? I don't think so. Expanding the sales tax on services, is that going to be any easier argument in two years? A sales tax food, some believe in that, some vehemently oppose that, is that going to be any easier in two years? All those disputes that we get into when we perceive an edge to the urban, or an edge to the rural area in terms of the reallocation of taxes and who pays the taxes, is that going to be any less in two years, in the next two years? The decisions are there, the decisions may or may not be any easier, but there's a great possibility they may not be made, they may not be made. And if they're not made, then what are we saying to the public? That we're not going to fund the schools? Well, the public is proud of their schools, we've heard on the floor here today, they don't want to do that. So then the people must be expecting that we're going to do something about it, something rational. And I think we ought to be forthcoming with the public, because I think they know that something has to be done. Once they are aware of the dimensions of the cut, 25, 30 percent of school revenues, they will be aware of the scale of the problem, and they will be supportive of the need to put in an underlying safety net. Senator Kristensen argues that the cities and the counties are more vulnerable, I'm not sure I buy that at all. I'm not sure there's a more emotional argument than the argument for police, or the argument for fire fighters. I think those are every bit as strong and as emotional as the appeal of the schools...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and does not afford us a rationalization for treating the...for treating the counties and the municipalities much, much better under this package than we do the school districts. If the people are proud of their schools,