

many of the taxpayers in this state. And I don't...I don't think there is any argument there or we wouldn't be hearing as much noise as we are about people's dissatisfaction with the way the support of our schools and our other various entities of government is now being done. So somewhere there has to be a happy medium, and I think that's what we're working toward and still...and still get some legislation that will not, in fact, destroy the school systems and et cetera, but will, in fact, encourage, as Senator Warner has said so often, encourage some efficiency, perhaps some consolidation of services, and other things that can go a long way towards eliminating some of the tax burden that we are now faced with. So with that, I just wanted to make those comments for the record because...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...I think they're important, and I do think that we need to continue to understand that this is a case of where if we don't want to do anything, somebody else will, and that may not, in the long term. As I told a friend of mine the other day when he was asking me about the signature on a petition, I said, that's fine, but just remember what it does. Read the fine print and make sure that when you're ready to bring some of these things back to a vote in a short time if you are not satisfied. The way we're doing it, it doesn't have to go to a vote, only here in the Legislature. With that, I thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I was interested in Senator Beutler's comments about the irrationality. Is it rational for an agricultural person to be upset when his property tax have increased...has increased four and fivefold in five years, and his income has not? Is it irrational for a homeowner whose value of his home has, in his eyes, irrationally increased, be paying two and three times as much tax as he was four or five years ago? That's not rational. And it is rational for people to seek a change. It is rational to see if we can't make more efficiency reign among our school districts, among our county and local governments. I do agree that the reductions in the mill levies are apparently going to penalize, but that is only if the people out there choose to do nothing. We need to have the people look reasonably and rationally at