

CLERK: Senator Withem, your amendment goes away, Senator, is that right? Senator Beutler. I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, there were twenty-two people who voted against Senator Schrock's amendment. Twenty-two people cannot advance this bill. Some people waited to vote for it until they saw that their vote wouldn't make any difference, because they have other things that they want the rural senators to vote for. We are playing hardball now and I'm the one who will admit it. Others pussyfoot around the edges and pretend that we're altruistic, and up here in the regions of, I won't use the term that comes readily to mind because I'm sure Senator Kristensen would have a rejoinder. But we're not dealing in academics. That is a term that I can use. We are not dealing in the theoretical. We are talking about issues that touch people where they live. I'm going to see if this bill has twenty-five votes, maybe it does. But I'm going to ask for a roll call vote. And nobody else will do it, but I'm going to compare how people vote on these bills, because I don't think if this whole package, as it's called, is enacted there is going to be substantial property tax relief. The main reason it was brought was to try to defeat these petition efforts that are being launched by individuals such as Ed Jaksha and others whose names I don't know. But I think it is an exercise that is not fundamentally honest. I have talked about flying the false flag of property tax relief, when, in reality, the Legislature should run up the Jolly Roger. How these bills come out ultimately will be determined by the votes of the members of the Legislature, obviously. There are numerous bills that remain to be voted on. We know, I will say it though others will not, that votes are tied into other votes. This vote that was just lost particularly troubles me. And I will tell you why. It's going to make my work in the future more difficult because I see the rural people as needing something better in the way of representation than they have now. So there'll be another of those groups which will latch on to me to an even greater extent than they do already, and I will try to do what I can to assist them. But that is something that those they send down here are supposed to do. We will get to Union Pacific, and I lay on that