

it's easy to do. And if you've got a little time that day you say, well, no, hold it, here's what really happens. If you don't have time, you go, yeah, that sounds like a pretty good policy, and off you go. That works fine in the coffee shop; that doesn't...that doesn't work fine when you're beginning to do policy, and here's why. What guarantee do you have that that sales tax increase that everyone is going to pay is going to directly reduce your property tax? None, you do not. People's anticipation, if you're going to raise that sales tax or the income tax, are that there's some guarantee of a direct relationship of reduction of property tax. We're not to that point yet. That day is yet to come. It will come, but we're not there yet. And besides, you're only going to get one chance, in my opinion, to make a substantial shift in taxes, if it's going to occur, and you're going to do that after some of the restructuring has occurred, after they've had a chance to examine themselves and not before. If you do the change now, if you do the half cent sales tax increase you're done. This is the last opportunity I think you'll ever have to make any shift from sales and income taxes to property taxes. It won't do what we want it to do, it won't be a guarantee, and all you do is put more money into that system without getting into some of the efficiencies, and without taking into account some of the other items that this package offers. And so I know that that's a popular coffee shop topic, it's certainly one that...it seems so simple, and yet it's so very, very hard, and there's so much more to it. And besides the half cent will not make a substantial...at all a substantial change in the property tax in the state of Nebraska if you're only going to raise \$77 million and you're talking about well over a billion and a quarter of property taxes in this state. It just will not have the impact, and then you've raised the taxes. And actually their property taxes remain the same, their sales tax has gone up, and we've accomplished nothing. So I would rise to oppose that. The other frustration I have as I read one of the letters that I generally ignore most of the letters I get from the lobby, but this one goes...and I don't think it can go without passing. One of the groups who strongly supports the petition drive says, my goodness, this package doesn't provide...it caps property tax for schools, but it doesn't address the issue of replacement revenues, that's left for another day; we believe that we must not wait for another day. What does their petition do? What does that petition do? It says, we don't have the answer, let the Legislature do it. Come on. We're getting close to the