

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...will not necessarily pass today, but I'm glad he introduced it. I...Senator Beutler, excuse me, Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler's will not...amendment will not pass today, but I certainly intend to support it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, members of the body. I don't intend to take long, I just wanted to finish the remarks that I started before. And, you know, I was talking about LB 299 just briefly because I think it is...it is not as tough as LB 1144, although in the second year it won't be easy. But I think that LB 1144 is too tough. Now I would like to share with you just some facts and figures before I go ahead to talk about Senator Beutler's proposal here, and go back to the idea of the petitions that are in the process of being circulated and maybe filed and...or that have been filed and that may qualify and that people may be voting on. I want to just refresh your memories and go back to the years from 1960 through 1964, and during that period of time there were 63 petitions filed in Nebraska. And some of those were referendums, but most of them were constitutional amendments, almost all of them were. Of those 63, only 19 actually qualified for the ballot, and of those 19 only 7 actually passed. Now, to me that says that the electorate is fairly discriminating; that the electorate usually goes to the polls informed and makes wise decisions. Now we may not always agree with them, but they don't just pass anything that gets on the ballot. And I guess...I guess I had to point that out because I don't think that we ought to be influenced by what's going on out there in the petitions. I do think people want property tax relief, I don't disagree with that. The survey I sent out recently, that's the number one priority. But what kind of relief do they want and at what expense? I think that's the question. Senator Chambers, I agree with you, sales tax isn't the best replacement. And if I truly thought this had an opportunity of getting adopted on this bill I probably would have to say, well, let's amend that and make it income tax. But I'm being realistic here. I think there needs to be a replacement is all I'm trying to say when I got up to talk about Senator Beutler's proposal here. When I sent out that survey to 11,000 people in my district and asked them what kind of services that they would be willing to be cut, they were willing to see cut if their property taxes were reduced, I got a handful of responses. They don't have any clue as to what services we