

about tax reductions that unless...if we put this package into place we're talking about property tax reductions of \$250 million. Those are real. Those are substantial. Not every homeowner is going to realize a proportionate share of the reduction, but overall \$250 million of reduction, 20 percent of property taxes will disappear. This replacement tax that we're talking about today is only \$70 million, somewhere between a third and a fourth of replacement revenue if you just wanted to keep taxes at the current level. Even if you adopt this amendment you're reducing overall taxes significantly, and you're not going to take away the incentive for efficiency because there's still a huge amount of money out there that will be of concern to the school districts. And it strikes me as somewhat ironic that we talk about the drive for efficiency and how we're really going to get efficiency, and when I had the little amendment on school consolidation I couldn't even get you to tell them they had to have a hearing and a cost estimate on consolidation. Couldn't even get you to tell them to go through a little process to be sure they had analyzed the situation for consolidation. I mean if we're not willing to do that much, and consolidation is the big efficiency in the school area, what makes you think that next year or the year after you're going to be willing to do the one big thing that needs to be done in terms of efficiency? I mean you don't really believe that without consolidation you're going to get any significant efficiency, do you? I mean do you believe the school administration out there, if we do it right, is going to result in a 20, 30 percent reduction in the school budget? That's patently ridiculous. And the politics of it, if we put this in here the Governor will veto it. Maybe he will; maybe he won't. If he does, we can override the veto. Why wouldn't you override the veto if you believe in it? Why would you back off just because one other individual has a different opinion than you do? I never have quite understood that. But in any event, if you think that he will veto it this time and we will be forced to look at an override, if he will veto a \$70 million measure, and you say this is too small, we need to do it right in a year or two, what we really need is \$150 million measure, what's the next Governor going to do with that? You think it's going to be easier for the next Governor to deal with \$150 million? I suggest to you that there is no doubt but that there will be a gubernatorial veto of that, which you will have to override.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.