

state. They think that we're really doing something. We're not doing a thing to the large counties, to the large cities. All we're doing is we're damaging the small, the rural areas of this state and we don't have to do that if we would put some funding in. I know some people, some of the other senators say, trust us, we'll put the money in there once they cut their budgets. How far down do they have to cut? Do they have to go all the way down till everybody leaves town till they have no more services and then we'll gradually build them back up again maybe? I don't think that's the way it should be done so I'm going to oppose LB 1114. I know it's the cornerstone of the entire package, but I just don't think that this is the right way to have property tax relief in this state. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, what happens if noth...if we don't do anything? Why don't we just forget all about all the bills and not do a thing? What will happen? I don't know. Maybe nothing will happen, but just say what would happen if the Jaksha amendment and the Farm Bureau and the teachers union amendments got on? Boy, wouldn't we have a beautiful time down here next year? Really would have a great time. Right now, we pay taxes till the ..I think it's the middle of May. That's the problem and I think it's like Senator Warner said, we're not going to desecrate the schools. If we pass 1114 and there aren't any constitutional amendments, we will come back in here and take a good look at 1114. You know it and I know it. I think people are getting scared and I don't think they have any reason to get scared, but there's a reason people are concerned about property taxes. Property taxes for K-12 schools from '85 to '95 went up 354 million. Special education went up 69 million, 137 percent. State aid went up 226 percent, 287 million dollars. How about property tax...? I mentioned the K-12 property taxes. Counties went up 53 percent. Tech schools and ESUs went up 93 percent; NRDs, 95 percent; fire districts, 77 percent; miscellaneous districts, 70 percent. That's the reason that people are upset. We've probably been spending too much money. Can we be more efficient? I think in every level we could probably be more efficient. Now the people that run those organizations say no, but I think they can be more efficient. I think we can be more efficient in K-12 education, but if we don't look at how much we're spending we're