

an excellent superintendent, who was very complimentary about the whole package and his comment was to this effect; that, you know, we can't continue to do things as we have and this is an opportunity for us to look at to do things differently, better, build up public confidence, and I thought...I wished the whole body could have sat and listened to these people talk who are already doing on their own much of what's envisioned in this whole group package, but they also looked on this as even a further opportunity. And the mutual support that those various entities had, one for the other, was exceedingly gratifying and I firmly believe that if this legislation, group of bills, can generate that same kind of cooperative spirit that I saw yesterday that the confidence in the citizens in government, that we can have a real turning point. Instead of government being bad and evil and annoying, it can return to what I used to know when government was looked upon as...with great respect, great confidence, public support, and I think that can be the end result of this and I would hope that the body would continue to give that opportunity a chance to build that public confidence again that I think can be the end result of all of this. No disaster is going to occur. This body won't let it happen. But what can happen is all positive and I would hope that is the attitude that everyone would participate in over the next two years.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I just had a few comments. First thing I want to do, I want to applaud Senator Warner, what he has done since last spring and also to his staff members, 'cause I think they have done a very commendable piece of work by, and also the Revenue Committee, by bringing these bills to us. One thing on...just want to address the point that Senator Bernard-Stevens said about the state...the Unicameral not doing their job. If you remember, I got up on 299 and I asked Senator Wehrbein what are we going to tell our people when we're not cutting, and when we got done, the dust settled, we're increasing our budget 1.6 percent. We're sending 57 million dollars back to the subdivisions. Now, are they going to send that money back so we're going to...so we're going to have some extra money? No, they're not going to send that back. Now when you go back and talk to your people, say we're increasing our taxes 1.6 percent. That's what it is for state government. We're sending 57 million dollars back to