

always cost money, they may cost us a little bit of uncomfortable time, but we're going to have to do that and I think that's just starting, many of the changes we're talking about, the increase in taxes and money, but there's going to be structural changes within state government and within local government that we're going to have to allow so that some of the things that we want to happen, some of the restructuring, the reengineering, the consolidation can happen because we currently have roadblocks in the way so that they can't always do what I think would be the best thing for them to do. I think communities in many instances are ready to do this, have thought about it in the past, and these tax bills will give them a little more impetus, a little more reasoning, an excuse, if you wish to call it that, to be able to say to the people in their district, but this really is something that we need to do. How many of you have been called and said, why don't you just mandate consolidation of schools; why don't you just go ahead and mandate it instead of asking us to do that kind of thing on our own? There is the need and even the want to do of a lot of things that we're asking them to do. I have a situation in my own county where on the 26th of April they have already scheduled a meeting of cities and schools and counties to look at what it is that they can do. They've done studies in the past and they'll drag those out again and they'll look at them. There's an opportunity with a superintendent that's leaving Gering and whether or not Scottsbluff and Gering should have one superintendent is discussed every time a superintendent leaves. Well, one's leaving again this time and they are already looking at do we need to replace that superintendent and I think they'll be looking at it in a different light perhaps than they had before. So I think there will an impetus for communities to do perhaps in the past what they wanted to do. This will give them a little more, I think, support from the state 'cause I look at this as being supportive from the state, but we will need to go even farther in removing any roadblocks that perhaps is standing in their way and the future examined very carefully the ways that we can continue to support communities as they go through this change and, for that reason, I would support LB 1114 and the other revenue tax bills that look at reliance on property tax. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. As others have