

income and sales taxes, have certainly come down in those ensuing years. But having said that, that's my little historical note for you. And having said that, I would just say one more thing and that is to, as has everybody else, praise and thank the Revenue Committee for all they've done and for putting this package together. I wanted very much to vote for it. The fact that schools were left so vulnerable, vulnerable beyond our political ability to remedy the situation, in my opinion, that little fact...that big little fact keeps me from voting for this particular bill. But having said that, I say it with a recognition that my judgment may be wrong in the matter. Time will tell, a couple of short years will tell. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Stuhr.

**SENATOR STUHR:** Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, it's really hard for me to add probably anything that hasn't already been said, but I guess in talking about the property tax issue, again I'd like to emphasize that I think the attitude that we go into this process is probably going to make the biggest difference if we are really serious about reducing property taxes. I think that all areas of government will need to look at ways to address the problem of efficiency, and we've talked about that. I believe, regardless of what Senator Bernard-Stevens says, I believe that quality education for our students is still of utmost importance to all members of the Legislature. I think that all of us realize the importance of education to the future of our state. And as a former teacher and someone that's worked in the education field, I guess I challenge the other teachers and administrators to really work cooperatively and to change their attitude and to look at some things that might possibly be able to do. Last week I handed out a handout to most of you on the floor in regards to property taxes. In my own district in the last ten years, they have increased one parcel of land 85 percent; another county, 170 percent; another county, about 89 percent. So we're talking about some reality as far as taxpayers are concerned. I did want to just talk a little bit about my own school district. These bills will not have as much effect as actually LB 1050. Last night our Board of Education met in my district and they will be looking at the possible closing of our school. So these have not been easy decisions. But again, I would just like to challenge all of us to work together. I hope, too, that we might be able to look at the school finance aid measure and look