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there, the public will think it amounts to a promise by the Legislature from now to eternity to grant this property tax relief. That is not a wise thing to float in front of the public because it's misleading. Even though the term "excess revenue" is there, a debate can arise as to what would be considered excess. Some who might see a gain in giving this kind of relief back would say, well, to me, anything over 1 percent is an excess for the purposes of giving this back. The Legislature is not wise, brothers and sisters, to put into statute something that we all know is going to be used as a stick to whip the Legislature when funds genuinely are not available to put into this kitty. So if my amendment is adopted, you give the Governor, who came forth with this idea, which I don't think is a good idea, you give that Governor what he might not even be able to expect from this Legislature, but you give him free passage for the time he is in office. After the year 2003, we start with a clean slate. If it's deemed advisable to do something like this, let that be what we bring legislation for. Don't create a situation where the Legislature has to bring a bill to repeal something which may be a dead letter anyway. But when you repeal it, it gives the impression that your aim is to deprive the property taxpayers of something to which they're entitled. Otherwise, why repeal it? My argument is that the horse is being put in front of the cart with an amendment...with the language of the committee amendment. Nothing will be violated in terms of an agreement between the Revenue Committee members and the Governor if my amendment is adopted. The Governor should not want to bind the Legislature beyond the term...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...of his administration. I'm not asking you to embarrass this Governor. I'm saying we need to look at the Legislature as an institution and we need to protect our integrity as an institution, and that's what my amendment is designed to do. So I hope that you understand that I'm very serious about this amendment and I think it merits serious discussion by those members not only interested in property tax relief, whatever that turns out to mean, but in the Legislature as an institution and our integrity as the lawmaking body.