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western half, but then their own as well, if we couldn't complete the process. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Smith, Senator Flood, and Senator Stuhr. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I would yield my time to Senator Beutler if he would need some time.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Brown. Let me address a couple of things I heard, just to give you a different perspective on them. First of all, it was stated that if the counties have an additional \$6 million that they then took to reduce property taxes, should they take that path, under the bill, they could take one of two paths--they could reduce property taxes, or, if they needed new roads or had other dire needs, they could use that money on other expenditures. In any event, it was criticized as being a tax shift, that that's the way we get property tax relief. Well, it's through a combination of mechanisms, some of which were suggested by Senator Redfield, that we get property tax relief. But a huge part of that has in fact been a tax shift. That's what we really have to do if we want to reduce property taxes. State aid to education has gone up, as we all know, through the 1990s and the early 2000s, dramatically. That's giving state sales and income tax money to the local school districts so that they don't have to levy a property tax. It's a tax shift, but that's how we get property tax reduction. We can't leave the counties and the school districts and all those people out there without some source of funding. But the value of that tax shift, if you want to call it that, is enormous if you're a farmer or somebody that is retired and on fixed income and you really think and know that, for you, property tax reduction is the most important form of tax reduction. And through the mechanisms of the tax shift, as was referred to, or in other words, by substituting sales and income tax money for property tax money, we have in fact, in the time I've been in the Legislature, brought this Legislature up from being the one or two states in the union who