

things and the Legislature can set whatever percentage that would be. I think all of those are side issues. The real question is whether there ought to be a lid at all. If allowing the people to impose the lid is a positive good, the lid's duration should not be limited to one year. It should not be limited to two years. It should not be limited at all. We should remember what Ralph Waldo Emerson said in one of his essays. "If I were to write a word on the lentils above my door, that word would be whim." Allow the whimsy of the people to destroy the school system if that is what they decide should happen. Allow them to cripple local government so that in effect it will be destroyed and then tell the people, you got what you deserved but because it is known that the populous has to spend so much time trying to figure how to feed children, pay the rent and take care of the other essentials of just living from this morning until this evening, that elected representatives are put in office to operate the government and the government exists for the common good. The government is supposed to be comprised of people who are informed and deliberative and will take those hard decisions that have to be taken in order to make the government do what it is designed to do. If we temporize on the issue we only make matters worse, Senator Kelly, and I think you call yourself making a worse situation merely bad but I see both of them as being bad and that is not acceptable. Perhaps politically it is the thing that seems feasible but if we are going to discuss this matter in the context of what is best for the people and especially the children we have to find what we consider to be a positive good and that would be to take away the lid all together. For those who think that the lid itself is a positive good I don't think you ought to even allow a means to remove it. Once it is imposed let that be it. If the people are so whimsical and it is felt that they are so uninformed that they will vote to take a very important step and repent in less than a year and remove it, then putting into the people's hands the power to take that step is not a wise decision for deliberative law makers to take. We should do better than that. You don't let children play with matches. You don't let unlearned people handle loaded weapons and we know that when you talk about the finances of a government you are dealing with the heart and the soul of that government.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The power to tax is the power to destroy. The power to withhold the money necessary to keep an operation