

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I rise to support Senator Koch in his attempt to achieve some real property tax relief for the people of the State of Nebraska, and I, too, would like to comment on the Governor's letter, a comment to the effect that when the Governor of this state can be so naive to think that \$20 million is going to achieve property taxes...is going to reduce property taxes, \$20 million added to the \$55 million to state aid to education, then I suggest we have got quite a problem in this state. \$20 million is not going to reduce property taxes. I know it and every member of this body knows it. Now how any of you are going to be able to go home and explain to the people back home that we spent \$20 million of your bucks but your property taxes are still going to go up because your schools are going to have to raise property taxes, if you can explain to me how to explain it to those people back home, I would be ever grateful to you. I don't know how to explain it. They want property tax relief. That is one of the things I heard over the interim loud and clear and here we are. This is the sixtieth day. We are minutes away from adjourning and we have not addressed what the people of this state, the people of my district, at least, have been telling me is the major issue that they think we should address. I have been keeping score. The score right now is the Governor five, the Legislature one. I don't think we stand much of a chance probably but I would point out to you that if we don't offer that property taxpayer some relief, some real relief, not words, not legislative rhetoric, but some real relief that he can see in his pocketbook, in his checkbook, his bank balance, we are going to have zero based lids on ad valorem taxes throughout this state. My own county has got a movement being started right now toward that direction and this body decided today that in essence those lids are going to go on and they are going to stay there, period. I don't think that the children of this state, I don't think that the future of education of this state can stand that and I would suggest to you that the future of the State of Nebraska cannot stand that. It is true that once again this wild-eyed liberal is going to trigger an increase in sales-income taxes perhaps but I can't emphasize too much that the property taxpayers of this state are ready for that, and particularly since we are operating under the seven percent lid that we are operating under now which is going to mandate property tax relief. I don't know what you have been hearing from your people but this is the one issue, and I would like to stress that again, that my people expected us to address and I cannot go home in good conscience without doing my best to address that issue. I urge this body's adoption of Senator Koch's motion.