

for direct property tax relief which can probably only be achieved in the form of a direct rebate, and when I say significant, I mean a million...a hundred million dollars additional money put in there at a minimum and two hundred if you are going to be practical. But to do that, to do that you do have to significantly broaden the tax base and you probably are talking about a sales tax on services. But if you are going to get the property tax relief, you might as well do it in significant enough amounts that it accomplishes true property tax relief and so that it is felt by the public and so that it does go to them. So let me just conclude by saying I believe if we raise the bill, we have created one more escape route, and for that reason, I am not supporting raising the bill and I guess I wish my good friend, Jim Pappas, maybe had delayed making the decision or forcing us into the decision on this one until a little later in the session. However, since we have to make the decision today, my decision will be against raising the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Scofield and then Senator Smith and Labedz.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would rise to support Senator Pappas's efforts and I voted for the property tax measure last year. I agree with what Senator Warner is saying and I would just like to make one very brief point and that is it is very difficult to stand here on the floor and say, as Senator Higgins has pointed out, that we said we were going to do one thing last year, and then to turn around and change but I think we can justify doing that on the basis that we have better information this year than we had last year and we have a different situation. And I think...I just had constituents in my office this morning and I laid this somewhat of a moral dilemma before them and said, how would you feel if I took this kind of a position? And they understood it completely and I think your constituents will understand it, too, and so I think we ought to keep this thing alive for awhile. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Smith. (Gavel.) Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as a new Senator, I would like to add my voice to those people that talk about the promises