

world but unless he addresses the fundamental cause of the problem, we are going nowhere. And that is exactly where we are headed again, nowhere because we are not addressing the fundamental cause which is a reliance on property for the financing of our educational system. And, therefore, we are doomed to continued battles, to continued erosion of quality of education, to continued excessive costs of education and so I would urge you seriously consider, seriously consider facing up to the problem and redoing the entire financing system of education. I placed an amendment up there. I will read you what the amendment says, and I am not going to attempt it today unless I felt there was a chance, but I hope you think about it. "Strike all sections. The Legislature hereby finds that the current system of financing the primary and secondary educational system of this state relies too heavily on property tax. The Legislature hereby directs and orders that within 36 months the Legislature have in place a system which will obtain no more than one-third of the overall cost of such primary and secondary education from the property tax system." That's what you're going to have to do eventually. That's what you're going to have to do to eliminate the battles, the battles over property, the property wars. Property is not an accurate reflector of ability to pay or net profit or anything else. And as long as you rely on that improper and dishonest way of financing education, you will continue yearly to have battles like this that end up getting worse instead of better in their outcomes. I think we have to start looking at the entire forest instead of "the tree" and we're looking at a tree today. If you really, if you sincerely believe that this is a taxation issue exclusively, then I suppose my other amendment, the one that we're actually discussing now is the proper solution. Why it simply takes all land, not now in a high school district, and says for taxation purposes this is all going to be made one district. Yes, you'll still keep all your local school boards so that issue is gone, nobody to fight there, and you'd be taxed at one-half of one percent or three-quarters of one percent. I could care less as long as it is a reasonable figure. One-half of one percent raises \$22 million. You're now paying \$25 million in your total taxes from all this land. Three-quarters of a percent would raise \$31 or \$32 million which would be six or seven million more than you're raising now. My point is, if it's really a taxation issue, then treating all this property exactly identical, raising the taxes from it should be a solution