

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay. Okay, the purpose is still the same. We are going to attempt to turn this bill into the vehicle that Senator Johnson, I think, brought to our attention a little bit ago. We are going to change the words "homestead exemption" to "property tax relief." We will then strike the rest of the bill so that the bill would, if you adopt this amendment, the bill would then become the vehicle to say, yes, we are going to provide property tax relief, we are going to raise the sales tax one percent to provide a pool of funds for a property tax relief fund. Then once we've made that determination, as a body, then we are going to have to discuss the issues with LB 38 and those other issues as to how we distribute those funds. It seems to me that that is what Senator Johnson is attempting to do with Section 5. We are going to create a fund. We are going to provide property tax relief. I've got some ideas as to how property tax relief ought to be distributed, as do a number of other people in here. But the past years, as we've attempted to deal with this issue, we have argued over how we are going to disperse it but we've never faced up to the fact that we've got to raise the funds to disperse them to start with. I think it is time that we talk about which pocket are we going to dip into then. Are we really, in fact, serious about providing property tax relief? If we are serious, then we had better find the money. We had better find a source of funds. But for us to debate at length about how we are going to distribute it when actually we are distributing something we don't even have and haven't decided how we're going to get yet, and then at the end of the session, as has happened for the last six years that I've been down here, we've said, no, we really didn't mean it because we don't want to raise the funds to provide it. I'm simply attempting to raise the issue that if we are going to provide property tax relief we better have a fund to provide it out of. That is what I'm attempting to amend the committee amendments to turn this bill into that vehicle. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, then Senator Landis.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, as we've stated before we have three...really have three proposals before us, although one of them is still in committee. My suggestion is that we keep them separate. This, I believe, is Senator Vickers's attempt to turn LB 712 into a school aid bill. Now I'm not supporting LB 712, but what I am