

Senator Lamb, I am not creating a fund for the use for the schools. All I am doing is creating a fund. You can use that fund in LB 38 if this body decides to do it. It is not earmarked to any...or tied to any distribution method under the amendment I've got up there. Also I think Senator Landis misspoke a little bit. I think he is willing to rectify that, that there is not, right now, a property tax relief fund as created. I would like to give a little bit of my time to Senator Landis and ask him a question, if I could, as to whether or not that was exactly true.

SENATOR LANDIS: I mistook the Speaker's question and misanswered. There is a personal property relief tax fund. There is not a real property relief tax fund.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Senator Landis. The issue, to me, is very clear. I understand the points that Senator Johnson is making. I think we are...the strange part of this is we are all arguing yet we are all on the same side. Senator Johnson and I have another bill that does increase the sales tax as well. We all are trying to struggle with how we are going to provide property tax relief. For those of you that have not been around this body before, in past years, these kinds of debates are not unusual at this time in the session. It is almost as inevitable as it is to have snow in March. In spite of what the weather is like I am not convinced we're not going to have snow yet in March. It is easy in February and March, in the Legislature, to talk about how wonderful it is going to be to provide property tax relief, and to debate at length as to how we are going to do it, whether we are going to do it through homestead exemptions, whether we are going to do it through school aid, whether we are going to do it through direct rebates, or however. You could get some of the transcripts from back there in the past years and it's the same thing year, after year, after year. Until it comes close to the end of the session and it becomes clear what the Appropriations Committee has done, what this body is going to do for appropriations, then it becomes clear that we are not going to have the money to do all those wonderful things we talked about in March and February. Therefore we are going to have to raise the tax rates to do it. Then is when the steel goes out of our backbone and the fire goes out of our belly and we're not really, generally to interested in standing up and saying, folks, in order to backup those wonderful speeches we made back in March for property tax