

the sales tax we are 23rd, and in the income tax we are 30th. So, we are not nearly as low as that chart would indicate. I just wanted to bring that to your attention so that you are all operating with the same information. I know there is a lot of pressure for property tax relief. I understand that. I get it myself. But sometimes I think we shouldn't lose perspective and I think you should look closely at the chart that Senator Johnson passed out to you which is entitled "Table 34, Property Tax as a Percentage of Total State Local Taxes." It goes back from 1942 to 1982. You'll see that even from 1962 to 1982, the last 20 years, we've gone from 70 percent of our taxes coming from property tax, to 42 percent of our taxes coming from property tax, as of 1982. So I guess the only point I am making is that while we need to continue to work on it and maybe we need to do something this year even, I don't think it is anything we have to panic about. I think it is something that we made great progress on over the last 20 years, despite the rhetoric you sometimes hear in the short term. I mean it has changed radically in the last 20 years. Maybe it should change some more. But I think that we don't have to feel any kind of sense of panic about it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, I was particularly interested in Senator Beutler's comments about how property tax relief is really not too much of a problem. In light of the fact that LB...is it 116 which is the additional half cent sales tax for Lincoln is progressing across the board, despite the opposition of some of us who have stated that that additional half cent is property tax relief for Lincoln, but it leaves the rest of the state out in the cold. So I would never want to say I told you so, but sometimes a person is tempted. The other point I would like to address is that some people have indicated that...let's vote for both the bills and move them along, LB 712 and also LB 38, and make a decision later. Well I think, as has been pointed out today and the debate before, as we get down toward the end of the session, things get very hectic and some of these ideas get scrambled together, good bills start dragging bad bills and that sort of thing. So I guess while maybe there is some merit toward making the decision later, I think now is the time to make the decision. Decide whether you philosophically believe that homestead exemption is the way to go for property tax relief, or do you