

over the past few years, address property tax first, school reorganization second. For six years, in this Legislature, we have attempted to address property tax relief. To a greater or lesser degree we have been successful, not nearly as successful as the farm folks would like us to be. But really all this amendment says is go back to addressing property tax relief first, and leave school reorganization alone. It is the old chicken and the egg thing, which comes first. All along the last six years we've been saying we'll concentrate on the egg, we'll concentrate on the egg, we'll concentrate on the egg. This year we concentrated on the chicken and they are saying go back to concentrating on the egg again. So it's a complete...philosophically it is a complete reversion to our old way of thinking, which has never worked in the past. Secondly, in a mechanical sense it is completely unworkable. The bill itself provides that the department, the Department of Revenue, shall have the power to change the percentage of funding for each of the three sources, that is sales tax, income tax and property tax. Well, in the first instance it doesn't say how they are going to do that. In the first instance that is probably an unconstitutional delegation of authority. But even if it were not, consider again how they would go about making these changes. The major hang-up that we've always had in this Legislature is the distribution formula for state aid. This amendment envisions the Department of Revenue, essentially instead of the Legislature, another cop-out, making the decisions with regard to how money will be distributed. As a practical matter they are never going to get that job done. Even if they did get the job done, they wouldn't have any money to enforce their solution. It reminds me a little bit of the old exchange between President Jackson and Chief Justice Marshall. When Chief Justice made him do something once by court order, Jackson said, fine, he has his order, now let him enforce it. That is precisely what would happen here. Even if the Department of Revenue was able to come up with something constitutional, which I think they could not, as a practical matter it comes back to the Legislature for us to get involved once again in the same old problems we've been dealing with year, after year, after year. So if you are going to address this problem, address it honestly. Don't adopt an amendment like this. Just vote no on 662. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The speaking order is this--Senator