

fighting for that for quite some time. Maybe if we say to the school districts you can't levy any more than a third, or some other magical percentage, it really will put the screws on us, if you will, because we don't want to close the schools down. I think that is something that is dramatic, it is drastic, it is probably crazy because we know we can't bind future Legislatures, but we are sure going to put them in a crack. I guess I don't have a whole lot of problems with that because I don't think we're going to do it otherwise. A lot of folks are telling me I don't want anything other than property tax supporting education, I don't want anything else, even though the property taxes are too high. Those people that have real high property taxes, both rural and urban, I think have an insurmountable burden unless we're ready to start addressing it. I spoke on this floor a lot of times about the philosophy behind property taxes. I think once in awhile we ought to stop and think about that. The property tax is a legitimate tax for those entities of government that are out there to do something for that property. But the property tax, in my opinion, is not a legitimate tax for the support of education since education and the ownership of property have nothing in correlation. So it occurs to me that Senator Schmit, with his amendment, even though it's a very long, drawn out one, and I don't fully understand everything that is in there, I'm going to support it because of that last section that, as I say, is probably crazy but it is saying to the school districts and it is really saying to the state...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...come up with another formula, come up with another mechanism. I have no problem with that. I think we should. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I apologize for just getting the amendment up here at this time. If the amendment does not read the way I've explained it to read I will be willing to do anything that needs to be done to correct it that way. But as you know it is a lengthy amendment. But we just got it here. The intent is as I have explained it to Senator Vickers, and as Senator