

finance elementary and secondary education. I am very comfortable to argue that property tax is carrying too heavy a load, but I have come to the conclusion that I cannot argue that we are doing it for property tax relief very comfortably, but I can argue that you are doing it on the basis of equity for education. So the way I have been voting on this bill, 772, or whatever, the other bills did not reflect a position of property tax, but I know we cannot increase sales and income tax for a dozen different ways. You have got to settle on one and the one I am going to settle on if and when it occurs, the legislation will be one to finance elementary and secondary education in a more equitable fashion and if one of the by-products of that is some property tax relief, that is great, but the purpose has to be only one that I can justify as a question of equity for financing education. Any votes I have made on any of the other bills are not reflecting the issue as it has been framed this morning by some.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I rise to support the committee amendments. We didn't do too much more to them. All we did was put on a \$1,000 cap and if this bill is to work, we need the committee amendments. We need those technical amendments on this bill. What the amendment says now, 10 percent with a \$1,000 cap. It is that simple. And so I would urge you to support the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be the briefest and most unusual speech I have ever made. But this bill as it now sits and with the committee amendments adopted reminds me of a song that was popular when I was a child and my mother taught me. And it goes like this, "Oh, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. In the meantime, in between time", and it is supposed to say, "ain't we got fun". And all we have got is a bunch of people out there that we have disappointed. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, then Senator Conway, then Senator Miller. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, we have