

actually having the belly to appropriate enough money so that the property taxes paid in local school districts would be only one-third of the budget. Now, had I been here I would not have voted for that amendment because I think it is irresponsible to ask the Legislature of 1989 to come up with the kind of dollars necessary to provide that level of state funding to local schools. On the other hand, the Legislature is beginning to set a direction and it is not an irresponsible direction, and the direction is we need to provide further funding for local school districts for a variety of reasons...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...maybe teachers' salaries but also property tax relief. Other states have done exactly that. My guess is that as we begin to fill out the canvas, we are going to fill it out with increased insistence upon state aid as our form of property tax relief and upon homestead exemptions as our form of property tax relief. But the canvas will not fill out with a rebate system. I think the proper time has come for us to make the choice which is to vote to kill the rebate system and to let that canvas be shaped in the directions that I really am inclined to believe that we are heading and we will see the big picture as soon as we stand back far enough from the painting to see exactly how we filled it in.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I will try to make this very brief. Senator Lamb spoke to me about this amendment the other day and as most of you know I certainly would prefer back to the amendment that I had the other day. I felt that that was fair to urban as well as rural and this amendment is simply a compromise and I want to say to this body, if they believe that the rural people are getting a free ride on property taxes, it simply is not true. Those property taxes are leveled on a lot of mortgage property and so on and so forth. Again, on this bill, I hope that they do refer to education and I also want to have people remember that one cent sales tax does add up to be dollars. But I will speak to Lamb's amendment and it is a compromise and since mine went down in defeat the other day, I certainly hope that we take this as a total picture.