

the members of the body will be aware and conscious of what is happening, and everybody will have to make their own judgements about what is going on. But with that, I would also remind the proponents of the bill that there is some danger that the Governor of this state may not approve the bill if the property tax relief measure is too much too soon. That is another reason why, for purposes of holding this bill together, if you are interested in the bill, that this probably should not be done. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Because of some light changes it is Senator Vard Johnson followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I suspect that most of the proponents of LB 662 are a little adrift as to what is to be done with respect to Senator DeCamp's amendment. I certainly feel that way in my own heart. The reason why is because I looked upon LB 662 as essentially a bill designed to promote, enhance tax equity in our state, and it continues to be exactly that. There are others, Senator Remmers being one of those, who have told me that before the tax equity issue should be addressed we should make certain that we do right by the way we finance schools through a respectable state aid formula. I've listened to those entreaties and I think they are correct. So when Senator Schmit offered his Select File amendment a week ago to require the Nebraska Legislature to develop a system of financing by 1989 which would assure school districts, individual school districts, that no more than one-third of their taxes could be property taxes, I could understand precisely where that thought was coming from. Upon close examination I concluded, however, that the way the amendment was drafted it would work a hardship on school districts as opposed to maintaining local control. So yesterday several of us offered, which this body did adopt, an amendment which just simply said that by 1989 the school system in our state could not have more than 45 percent of its taxes...or its revenues come from property tax. That's a very fair amendment. It's a responsible amendment. Now Senator DeCamp and Senator Nichol suggest that we make that 1987 as opposed to 1989, and we say that only 40 percent of all financing of public education in our state can come from the property tax. As Senator Hoagland has pointed out, that will cost us an additional \$180 million annually. I think that is probably a correct