

fund. We also put a lid in the bill because we felt that if we were going to increase state aid to schools, we wanted it to definitely show property tax relief and so we've put a 3 percent lid in it. However, it can go a little higher than that if a school board would hold a public hearing and then by a super majority of the board they could increase that, I believe up to 5 percent. But I think it's time for this body to consider very seriously property tax relief. This would, like I said before, help not only the rural areas in our state, but it would also help the urban areas and, therefore, I would urge you to support the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. Clerk, I hear we have several amendments to the committee amendments. We just as well start on those.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the committee amendments I had was by Senator Vickers. Senator, I understand this is the amendment you wish to withdraw and substitute another amendment. The substitute amendment, Mr. President, is found on page 1909 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, this is the amendment that I'm sure is going to be totally agreeable to everybody and will not take very long to discuss and adopt. This is the amendment that would strike all of the bill and insert instead the language that would strike the funding mechanism that was in LB 662. And let me explain to you why I've got this amendment up there. I don't believe anybody in this body has been any more active in trying to bring about state aid to education, trying to bring about property tax relief than I have been. If you recall last year, this body did pass LB 341 which was a bill introduced by me to do basically many of the same things LB 505 is attempting to do. It in the end was vetoed. As Governor Kerrey said when he signed LB 662, that he did not like the funding mechanism that was in LB 662, but that he would bring us back in for a special session this fall for the sole purpose of addressing the question of how we fund education. With the signing of LB 662 he also created an interim study mechanism created by LB 662 that Senator Johnson and I will co-chair to examine the way that we distribute the funds to education. And I would suggest to you now that we have made a decision to