

situations is that we tend to circle our wagons in here and concern ourselves with two of the three major taxes that our taxpayers in the state have to pay, sales and income tax. We should be concerned with those taxes but I think the thing the members of the body really need to be aware of is that in the State of Nebraska we rely more heavily on property tax to fund the numerous functions of our government, state and local, than almost any other state in the nation. I know we have had various studies quoted from...anywhere from the tenth highest to fifth highest in the nation in the amount of property taxes that we pay. A year ago over the veto of the Governor 30 members of this body decided to pass LB 809. At that time I feel like we made a promise to the citizens of this state that we were going to provide them with some property tax relief. Admittedly \$75 on the average per individual is not much more than symbolic but we did make that promise. Also like to remind you if your citizens back in the district have not done so, and I question how heavy their lobbying has been because they don't have lobby groups, but those citizens in some of your counties, 90 to 95% of the citizens in your county went down to their county assessor and they made application for this program. They took it as a promise from the Legislature that we were going to fund the property tax relief. I think it makes us look very bad to outright repeal this particular measure at this time. My preference would be to see it be deferred. At one time I was even willing to say for this one particular program, let's bite the bullet and let's say, yes, and let's admit that this is a tax shift. Then let's go ahead and raise the proper taxes to pay for it. I recognize that that is not realistic at this point. I guess I also recognize that in all probability this motion is going to pass and I guess I am merely standing up and trying to give a speech to kind of make us feel a little bit bad when we do it, make us feel a little bit bad for passing a program one year, then deferring it to the next year, and then when it comes time for the people who we have made jump through the hoop of going down to the county assessors and filing for it, outright repealing it again before any of that money reaches them. I think...I know Senator Nichol yesterday gave a very impassioned speech on the floor which was quoted by members of the Legislature or by the news media about how silly we looked yesterday. Really question if we don't look just as outright silly with this sort of program to our constituents when we tell them go down to the court house, fill out this