

PRESIDENT: You have a minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: Oh, well, I think some people ought to think about this because I think there may be a possibility of no choice and I think before you...if you are not going to repeal it, somebody had better get an Attorney General's Opinion on that specific question.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers. Senator Remmers, do you wish to speak? Senator Hartnett is next, then Senator Withem.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Hoagland's motion. I think we have reached the point where we have to admit that maybe we made a mistake last year. We didn't fund it. I think it is out of the question that we will fund it this year. Personally I think I have been on record as saying that I am not too much opposed to a slight increase in the tax system, whether it be income or sales tax, but a raise in the income and sales tax right now seems to be completely out of the question, which means we are going to put it off until next year. There is absolutely no reason at all to expect that next year is going to be any better than this year. The economy is not going to turn around in that time. It could be worse and so we would be putting it off another year. This is not the kind of property tax relief that I think we should address. If we don't fund it, what are the counties going to do. It will be simply...how are they going to handle this? Are they going to shift that load to somebody else which I think is going to happen, and then I think also that Senator DeCamp raises an interesting question. That is something that I hadn't thought of before but I think it deserves some thought. But, basically, I think it is time for us to admit that we made a mistake, that this is not the way to give property tax relief. We are simply shifting taxes at the present time. Next year is not going to be any better, and if we are not prepared to raise the sales and income tax at this time, sales or income, or sales and income tax, I think we ought to forget about this thing and repeal it. I think we are just kidding ourselves to think that next year is going to be any different. I would urge you to support Senator Hoagland's motion.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Quiet in the Chamber please so that we can hear the speakers. (Gavel.) The Chair recognizes