

CLERK: 16 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The motion fails. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, Senator Wesely asked me a few minutes ago, he says, well, he says, yes, I agree with you, we haven't been looking at the property tax so what is the point you were trying to make? Well, I never got to the point so I want to make it now. My point is this, maybe we are looking at completely the wrong approaches to dealing with all of our spending, with all of our problems. Maybe we have to begin looking at the whole picture of local government and local spending. Now listen for just a minute. We have an 800 or \$850 million budget that all the attention is on. Approximately one-half of that budget of 850 is already being fed into local government for property tax relief, supposedly, despite the fact that we already have about the highest property taxes. Okay, what does it boil down to? Go check these numbers out. They are pretty close but maybe we can get them refined. We, therefore, have, what, 400, \$425 million that is available for state government and all the things which only represents about one-tenth of the spending of the state. That's right, about one-tenth of the government spending of the state. And we are down here with control over one-tenth or one-eighth, or one-twelfth, whatever it figures out, and trying to wiggle and control and make the other pieces fit that control the 90 percent, the local government, all the other things. At what point does it become undoable? At what point does it become uncontrollable? You can't completely control the dog with this little tail we are holding onto here. We are holding onto one-twelfth or one-tenth of the dog. All the attention is on this one, the little piece we are holding. And we are trying to make this fit over a local government here. We are trying to make the University fit. We are trying to deal with the homestead exemption. We are trying to deal with property taxes but we have no control over them. Maybe the first place to start is getting some handle over local government, yet the Attorney General and the Governor have not given us that option. That is not one of the tools available to us to deal with in this session. Any tool that could give you control of the situation, you have been denied. You have not been allowed to have the tools which is legislative prerogative to deal with the issues to cut spending or to make adjustments. Those have been