

you all voted? Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 16 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Conway is the next name on our list. Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Madam Chairman and members of the Legislature, suppose that many of my friends in the school business think that I am against education. I would like to remind everybody that I had a bill in last year that I was serious about to double state aid to education. I worked hard for the teacher retirement bill. I would also like to call attention to another thing that we have LB 662 that we passed which has put a lid on property tax. I don't know how we are going to handle that. I think we are going to have to have some work done on that before that is going to be workable, but we are doing something with that to restrict property taxes. So we can't do much about more state aid or anything else now until 662 is decided on the ballot next year. But the bill itself as it is written will give tax relief to local subdivisions and there is only way you can do that is either give them a local income tax option which I would like or more state aid from the State Legislature. There have been several references again to the fact and even though Senator Vard Johnson did refer to this, the fairness of the 1 percent of the 5 or 6, this is not quite accurate. The local subdivisions are not asked to make a 5 or 6 cut. We are simply cutting their state appropriation, while the 1 percent cuts the total budget of the state agency. In the case of schools on an average state aid is about 20 percent of the total budget, the latest figures that I saw. And so when you take 5 percent or 6 percent of 20 percent you come up with slightly more than 1 percent on a state average, so we are not asking the local subdivisions to take much greater cut and maybe we need to amend this to increase the cuts to state agencies. But the disparity that you mentioned is not there. It is at least not anywhere nearly as great as what has been indicated. I just wanted to remind you of those points in the discussion and I also want to say that I am not concerned about the large reserve that local school boards might want to maintain, if they want to maintain those. I can see why many of them do because tax funds are slow in coming in the early part of the year and they need a reserve to cover their early bills or they have to go borrow. So