

proponents of 1351 want is the green copy in front of us. Well, then you have to be ready to pay the piper for 1351 and the piper has a very expensive price tag. It is a price tag that includes the program staff for the mental health and the education, the program space, the whole issue of the loss of the workplace replacement when those individuals realize not only that they have the choice between workplace replace...doing the workplace issue or moving up to the education aspect or going in for mental health or substance abuse treatment and receiving good time benefits for that. The department looks at that and says, well, if that option is given to folks who are incarcerated, they more than likely are going to opt to go where they're going to achieve more good time, where they're going to basically reduce their sentence because of the good time that's associated with it. You're also going to have to deal with the issues on an ongoing basis as it relates to maintenance of those programs, maintenance of the facilities, the maintenance of the mental health programs, the education programs, the programming space that is an ongoing issue in the 5 to 6 million dollar range. Those issues are all incorporated into this bill in the green copy form, but yet we haven't talked about that because those who are proponents don't want to talk about that issue. They want to just get tough on crime. Well, it's great to be tough on crime, as long as you can afford it. The fact of the matter is, is that the other thing the people of this state don't want is they don't want to have to pay any more than they're currently paying in taxes. That's what I heard on the debate on the budget; that the people are fed up to here with increased taxes. Unless we hold the line, we are not going to be able to afford to do anything else in the budget other than raise taxes. Well, nobody wants to raise taxes. I haven't heard anybody run to the microphone and urge that this body move to raise taxes. But we are going to be looking at that issue as it relates to LB 991, the budget bill, and some of the other issues that are before us. We've talked much over the last few days about nursery rhymes. We've had nursery rhymes passed out on the floor, back and forth. I guess, unless Attorney General Stenberg goes by another name, that being Rumpelstiltskin, unless Senator Witek is put into a room and is able to spin straw into gold, we're not going to have the ability to pay for these types of programs because, frankly, it is not going to be there, ladies and gentlemen. We don't have the money. We may love to do some of these things. We would like to debate and do some of the issues that we could put into place for relatively little cost, but we're not going to be given that opportunity.