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FLOOR DEBATE

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into politics. Well, I'm going to mash its nose. You don't see me running into these churches trying to spread my political beliefs, my political views, but they want to use their status as a church to pay no taxes, to get all types of benefits bestowed on them by those and as a result of those who don't have any truck with or for religion whatsoever. If a street goes past a church, does the city where that church is located, when clearing away snow, stop its clearing on the street that is in front of the church because they don't pay taxes? No. All of the services that the churches and their congregations receive are subsidized by the taxpayers. Everybody is paying taxes, but the churches are not. They get into more and more economic activities and they don't pay taxes because they say they're a church. They buy cars for their preachers and put clergy on the license plate and pay no taxes that everybody else who drives a car will have to pay. So they are basically moochers and spongers; have always been such. But in years past people who came to this Legislature had enough backbone to tell the church people, you stay in the church because I'm going to be a state senator and not a flunky of the church. And that's what is happening. And you all can give as many votes against whatever I bring up there as you choose, but all it's going to do is provoke me to see the need to speak even more strongly on this very issue, and I will get the time that I need one way or the other. I don't care if we stay on the budget for the rest of the session. It probably would spare the state a lot of other bad pieces of legislation being enacted into law. So as people scurry around here giving Senator Hilgert notes, I'm going to continue doing what I think I ought to do and I cannot wait for his amendment that deals with remissions, and he's going to explain to us how that is the same as three student aid programs. He's going to explain that to us and show us that that is exactly the same as what we're talking about in these programs and I can't wait to hear him do that. And he's got people who are complicit with him abetting him, not aiding him, but abetting him and egging him on--yeah, go do that, do that. And I want to see him do it. It just shows once again who's pulling the strings. But when we come to a point where money is going to be spent, money that's in the treasury because everybody has paid taxes and that money is going to go to these church schools, I'm going to resist it. And I made a comment