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SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we're still talking about the green sheet. The green sheet still means money, so we've got to figure out how we're going to handle this situation. And I'm proposing something to you that will allow us to raise sufficient revenue to get the state out of its current financial problems. Now let me tell you, or remind you again, why I changed to a floor amendment this time. Initially, I had a proposal that would strike all of LB 1085 except this, but I determined that that was not the reasonable way to approach this. What I thought we would do is approach the sales tax issue, determine whether or not there is sufficient support for that, and then make a determination as to where we go from there. We could take out different programs and so forth in order to achieve whatever dollars we needed. This is sort of like a chicken and egg argument. I mean, I wanted something to be before this body to consider instead of a piecemeal approach. And it's up to you when we consider this as to whether or not you're willing to accept this. I'd like to divert now just a moment. I've passed a memo around from my office, and I've been contacted by a county commissioner of Lincoln County saying, how come we didn't get paid for the reimbursement of prisoners under LB 695? And I've been searching, trying to find out literally what happened. Well, what I found happened, and you will see my memo which explains it. You will see a letter that I've written to the Governor saying, how did you let this happen under...with an agency under your direct control? And I found that there are \$749,710 that was never paid to the counties, even though we had a bill that provided that they were to be paid for the reimbursement for state prisoners that were being held by the counties. And this is not fair to the counties in any respect. So if you will see the enclosed memo and letter, this issue is one that I think we should really be deeply concerned about because the Corrections did not approach the Appropriations Committee this year, so if they say that there's a funding problem, it was because they didn't ask for the money. And so it's nothing that we failed to do; it was something that was not presented to us. And I think when your county commissioners say, what happened, how come we