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FLOOR DEBATE

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the point. The point is that we're going backwards with state aid. So either the schools have to cut back or, guess what, they have to raise property tax. There's two options: either cut back or raise property tax. This is the bill that does it. I didn't vote for it out of committee. I'm going to listen. My mind is not made up yet. I'm absolutely neutral on this. I do not know what to do. I guess I'll listen to the debate. Whether it would be income, I've always favored income tax. If you make it, you pay it. You make it, you pay it. Big deal. Wish I could pay \$1 million in income tax, but unfortunately I'll probably never see that day. Maybe when I get out of here, maybe I can go back to work. I haven't worked for 25 years. Been in politics for the last 25 years. I better rephrase that. I haven't worked for the...(laughter). I better be quiet here. You get the point? I wished I did. Thank you. (Laughter)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. First, I want to correct a mistake I made in the comments I made earlier, and that was I think I said the temporary aid adjustment reduced needs by 2.5 percent, and it actually reduces needs by 1.25 percent. I imagine several of you were wondering why I made that mistake, so I'm trying to correct that. Let me point out a couple other things to you, if I could. If some of you have the General Fund financial status, which is the green sheet behind the agenda, please look with me at lines 28 and 29. That's the amount of money that is involved in LB 1093. The first line is LB 1093, first line meaning line 28, is the amount involving the...either the green copy or the...with the committee amendment. The additional amount of money would be indicated on line 29, and that would be with Senator Wehrbein's amendment. Now, I would...I would call your attention, we're not talking here about enough money to pay off the low-level waste site judgment, if that should happen. With those things in the budget, our net hole at the end of the out biennium is \$195 million. So this is not...this is not storing up extra money to provide for contingencies, if you will. This is money that is critically important, I would argue, for the state to make ends meet, to balance the budget. Another detail or two,