

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Louden, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I agree with some of the dialogue that's been going on that we're concerned about we've got to furnish education for the children. This isn't what this is all about. We've already funded it probably as far as this part will go, that Senator Raikes has mentioned that some of the school districts aren't using their budget authority now the way it is. So this is something that really doesn't have to be done. I'm amazed that when everybody says we have to fund these schools, we have to do this, this isn't "we" money that we're talking about. This is people's money that's paying property tax. The state of Nebraska is supposed to stay out of the property tax business. The state of Nebraska isn't supposed to be levying a property tax, but yet my observation is we're trying to find a way to do it. We're trying to pass legislation that can give the school districts, the school boards so-called authority to raise their mill levy. They already have that authority. So I think we're working at something that, like I've said before, this really doesn't have to be done. They can fund those schools with the authority they have now and without...with doing the laws like some of it's taken care of. So I really think that whether it's \$1.05 or \$1.07 or \$1.10, I think we're set with this \$1.05. We've voted on it twice and I guess that song we used to hear, what part of no don't you understand? And I guess this is what we got to go through for next. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Stuhr, you are recognized to speak next.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I am going to support Senator Chambers' amendment. As much as I dislike an increase in property tax, I think we have to look for some kind of compromise. And I just want to share with you also and take off where Senator Raikes was talking about, 106 systems who are over \$1.05 at this time; 37 of those did have the levy overrides, which means that there were about 69 schools that were needing some additional funding. I have three letters that I received this morning. All of those are