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FLOOR DEBATE

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Lincoln Public Schools most recently, the new superintendent is going to be paid considerably more than the old superintendent. Now you take that situation, and our pay for teachers is the exact opposite. Pay for teachers, you get more money the longer you're there. You're generally not replaced by a new person coming into the district that makes, you know, 10, 20 percent more than the teacher does. And I offer that as I think a point for more discussion. But I don't think we have looked hard enough in this situation of why is it easier to spend state aid dollars than locally generated property tax dollars. I'm not ready to reconsider the last amendment that was voted down and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...I've had to swallow pretty hard on some votes in the past. I didn't really want to do it, but like the \$1.05 last year, I reluctantly supported that and now we're facing more. Go to the point before last year and there were tax increases that were supposedly temporary and there were votes made to make those permanent. I've voted for some along the way. I've voted against others along the way. But I think we need to utilize this time for some good solid debate and that's without the rhetoric that we often too easily engage in. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. You know last year, at the urging of Senator Bromm, we entered into a discussion of our total picture. And through the task force, 407, I believe was the number, each one of the Chairmen of the committees spent considerable time looking at their own committee, looking at their issues that they oversee, and to examine also how the income and how the revenue and the expenses are being handled. It was a very good discussion. We also looked at the demographics of the state of Nebraska, and we found out that the state is not growing. As a matter of fact, if it hadn't been for the minorities coming in, we actually would have had negative growth; and also the fact that we only have 10 counties in this state that really are