

shortfall of dollars as projected by the Tax Commissioner and others over last year's receipts. That is also fine with me. By the same token when it comes down to an agency which performs a function which we have outlined by constitutional provisions, we oftentimes are willing to forget what they have to do. They have to educate almost three hundred thousand boys and girls of the State of Nebraska and some way or other we expect them to get that manna out of heaven. Now I know they can go to the property tax and you know it. We have 74 before us. We have been dabbling around all this session on \$70 million. Those same subdivisions of government are sitting there waiting for that dollar, yet it is not forthcoming because we have some problems as it relates to the Attorney General's opinions. Now those of us who represent large school systems, and by this I mean those systems educate more than two-thirds of the children. This means of the big ten schools in Lincoln and other schools that educate large number of students that they would be able to diminish the call upon property tax rather significantly and after all that is what we have to be concerned with is those public schools of the state who do educate the biggest share of the students. And I can show you by printouts that this will be rather significant to the Scottsbluffs, to the Grand Islands, to the bigger schools, Class 1s and others, and I believe it is time that we put on the line whether or not we want to maintain a minimum call on property tax or whether or not we just want to talk about it. Last year this body went out on a limb. We saw fit to put \$40 million into general aid. We also made some other commitment we would try to maintain some degree of fairness in property tax as it supports public schools. Now to me this \$20 million doesn't quite take up the slack for a 7% lid but it will certainly do something to minimize it. Therefore, I am asking you to adopt the amendment which provides \$20 million in the school aid fund which then would say that 60% of that money goes to foundation and the remaining part goes to the ensured needs. For those of you who wonder how that works, just very quickly, presently under our state aid program children in grades 1 through 6 receive \$175 a piece. This new money would take them to \$220 in the foundation section. In the 9-12 area of education, presently those students receive \$243. This would take them to \$315. Again it might not quite cover the cost of a 7% increase which they are entitled to but it certainly will help to minimize the effects. Therefore, since I have watched this body talk about how important it is to build holding structures for water, I submit to you another valuable resource is the boys and girls of the State of Nebraska. Water will do us very little good unless we can some way or other preserve some degree of quality for