

local government I would have some misgivings about supporting additional state aid to local schools knowing that some of that new dollar undoubtedly would be used not for property tax relief but for expanding the new program but so long as we have a local lid on the state sales and income tax dollars that we send back to local government should result in property tax relief. Incidentally I figure that a 20 million dollar increase in state aid to local schools will then bring our overall increase this year in state aid to about 7% which is still far less than our overall increase in appropriations for postsecondary education and our overall increase in state governmental operations. It is a good amendment. It is a just amendment and I certainly encourage its adoption.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, without going over the items that have been mentioned again, I have been one long like many of you who have been supporting the suppression of real estate and personal property taxes. In my community and in most communities I really truly believe that people would rather support sales and income tax more than they would real estate and personal property tax. So for this reason I support Senator Koch's amendment and I certainly have no criticism of our Appropriations Committee. I think they do a good job in attempting to hold things down and I compliment them for it but in this particular area I think that we should support Senator Koch in his amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to endorse the Koch amendment and to continue with the comments that Senator Johnson has made on this floor, you know, the point that he made I think needs to be reiterated just very briefly and that is ever since I have been in the Legislature with just a few, only two exceptions, the Legislature's committee on Appropriation has taken care of state government and they have done this and they have been able to do this with the image that we are holding the line at 7% but only by borrowing from what should be an increase in property tax relief or aid programs, aid to local government programs. So when Senator Johnson points out that the University is well above, that state government operations are well above 7%, when he points those things out we wonder oftentimes how can that be if we are still at 7%? And the answer is a very simple one. We are not holding operations at 7%. We are not holding the University at 7%. We are not holding higher ed except for a few instances at 7%. We are, in fact, increasing them but we are doing so by borrowing 7%