

First, I looked down to see Loran and I thought I saw DeCamp written across that rather than Schmit. Thought maybe he reached in there and pulled out a slip about 662 a few years ago. The difference between 662 amendment that had to do with raising taxes, which ultimately killed the bill, by the way, and some of you might have that in the back of your mind, was that, obviously, this bill has nothing to do, nothing to do with consolidation. I understand the concern that Senator Wehrbein has about money going directly back to the school districts. I'd like to remind the body there is about \$230 million in state aid now earmarked, going back to school districts for, for example, special education, for special education and, by the way, 14 other responsibilities. This is no different than that. I say it's premature. Unfortunately, if the amendment for a tax increase was attached to it, for whatever reason that might be, as compared to everything else we considered, obviously, though we would need the Withem amendment so, therefore, I support it, unfortunately.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Hartnett, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I simply rise to support the amendment and I think one of the things that...and I'm a member of the Revenue Committee, and one of the things that we did look at this year, and I had a bill to raise one cent of sales tax for schools, not for teachers' salaries, but just general over aid to schools. And that was heard by the Revenue Committee and I think that the Revenue Committee heard a lot of issues, Weihing, I think Senator Schellpeper, Bernard-Stevens and had other issues. The one bill that we advanced to the floor, and I think it's a priority bill of Senator Scott Moore, would simply be a 1 percent increase in sales tax, or I mean income tax for schools, is what we advanced out of the committee and I think that will be debated later and so I think one of the philosophical decisions that we made I guess in the Revenue Committee was that maybe income tax, because income tax is a little bit more progressive. Income tax keeps growing more than the sales tax, that we decided that we would use the income tax as a means so that...I think that, you know, whether we do this one here now or later on I think we have some mechanism to provide more funds. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you.