

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Where does the money...where does the increase come from? Does it come from tuition? Does it come from property taxes?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Property taxes.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, that is all I want to know, okay. I would like to know...and maybe I...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair and members. I have a feeling that Senator Robinson did not finish his discussion, but I may have a minute or so that I could give him at the end here. But I rise to oppose the amendment, but I have drafted here a possible solution to the tech college's problem, which actually was drafted by Tom Johnson, which removes the tech colleges from the property tax. It is a bill which I introduced, LB 784. I think this is the time to discuss this sort of thing. We should be taking these tech colleges off property taxes instead of increasing the property tax for those schools. We have got to do it at some time. At this point, when we have a revision coming in our property tax system is an excellent time to do that. I think those tech colleges would...and by the way, I support what they do. I think they are a very necessary part of our postsecondary educational system, but the fact remains they should not be on property tax. They should be on the General Fund, just like the university and just like the state colleges are. So sometime during this discussion on property taxes, at least when the 3-R Committee gets to operating, I hope they will take a hard look at it and find a way to take those tech colleges off of property. They should not be on property. It will cost about \$40 million to take them off property, to refund them from the General Fund. They get a little over \$40 million from property taxes now, so the State General Fund would have to pick that up to the tune of a little over \$40 million, which is close to...you know, it's almost a half-cent sales tax. Somehow or another in this whole mix we have got to get the tech colleges off of property tax, and during this discussion is a good time to do it. As I mentioned, I do have this little amendment to LB 693, it would be germane, it would be logical, but it wouldn't get the votes, so I probably won't introduce it