

though it was killed, but I think Senator Lamb's amendment is an inopportune time to run it. I would encourage the body to reject it and get back to Senator Schrock's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would oppose the Lamb amendment and at this point I am opposed to the Schrock amendment. We did have some discussions yesterday concerning funding for the teacher pay bill. There are a group of people who said that they did not like being in opposition to the teacher pay bill, but they had a concern about the manner in which it was to be funded. The taking the money that is currently going into the Highway Trust Fund and using that to fund the teacher pay bill was not a matter that they felt supportive of, but they wanted to fund the teacher pay bill and so could we find other mechanisms. We had discussions. We talked about the pop tax. The answer that some of us that are supporters of the current version of 1272 were asking was, does changing from the pop...from the sales tax on motor vehicles, one set on motor vehicles to the pop tax bring more support to the bill than it loses? The conclusion I've reached this morning from discussion with senators is it loses more support than it gains. May be a crass political statement, we usually don't talk that way on the floor of the Legislature, but that appears to be the case. I have not found, by comments on the Legislature, that a significant number of people who are not supporters of funding the teacher pay bill in its current form will become supporters of 1272. I've had private conversations with any number of people who are current supporters of 1272, who will not be supporters of it if the pop tax goes on. The arrangement that was made to explore the pop tax, it has been explored and that is a conclusion that I have reached at this point. I'd like to say a thing or two though about the rhetoric, the rhetoric war on 1272 has been lost by people on my side and I don't understand why that is. Driving down here this morning I heard on the radio that we're taking money from highways to fund teachers. There was a headline in a western Nebraska newspaper talking about a raid on the Highway Trust Fund. That has gone abeach, that's not the case at all. We are not raiding money out of the Highway Trust Fund. We are simply reanalyzing a decision we made a few years ago. There's been a little decision made by this Legislature, admittedly one I supported at that time, to apply the additional one cent that was raised because of LB 1059, an education funding bill, to