

fired up. We've got the beverage group threatening so many amendments or whichever group that was. Now we've got the alcohol, the beer and wine organization because we're trying to pass it off over there. It's interesting when you look at the lobby and the interests and how it works and we all know how it works. The point is, this body has to make, doesn't have to make a decision, we have the opportunity to make a decision. We have the opportunity before us this morning and if we don't do it this morning, tomorrow morning, put before us at this point to say are we going to do what we've already two times said we're going to do? And that is, we want and we feel obligated and we desire to increase the amount of funding that our teachers have. Senator Peterson made a statement earlier today, he said, why are we doing this, why not just leave it up to the local level? I think we in this body know why we can't leave it up to the local level because of the property tax situation. They cannot at the local level do what needs to be done on teachers' salaries given the current tax base situation. There needs to be some sort of state initiative and state help. We've made that decision twice, in 1989 and in 1991. We've made that decision twice. What has happened is that there has been always a fight on General Funds money and there's limited General Fund money. And, again, when we look at the proposals of the budgetary process for next year, if there is nothing this year that we can find...if there's no way that we can find to fund LB 91 that we passed in '91, if we can't fund that this year, then members of this body need to be able to go up front to the educators and say, hey, not only did we not find a way to fund it, but we're not going to be able to fund it next year at all, possibly not even if the 7 million is in the base because we know we're looking at a major, major budget shortfall because of Medicaid. I mean, that's...that's what we're really saying here. If we truly believe what we did in 89 and 91, we must find a source, a source that we can...if there's no General Fund monies available, there's something there because there's a policy worth saving. If there are General Funds money, we might be able to expand if the body so desires in the good years. We must find a source. The question that remains, the only question that remains is where, where can we find the source. Senator Schrock has an idea on beverage. Senator Lamb has an idea on alcohol. I'm sure there are other ideas. Senator Chambers threw out the idea about popcorn. I'm sure...Senator Will threw out what about a head count, if the kids go to school, we can tax them per head, I mean, that was in jest, Senator Will, I will admit, but nonetheless there are many ideas