

yesterday was this tax. And we've heard some of the debate both pro and con. I understand that there are reasons not to...valid reasons, I suspect, not to earmark this particular tax to this...or this funding source to this proposal, the teacher proposal, and then there are arguments on the other side. But I think what we were trying to do yesterday was to look for alternatives that made sense. I preferred Senator Conway's LB 1135. I thought that was the proposal that made most sense. It raised sufficient revenues, it...revenues that we're going to need next year when we face budget cuts. It raised, I believe, about \$25 million a year, 24 or \$25 million a year. It made sense to me. This, however, apparently that proposal or the clunker tax, as it is so-called, does not have the support in the body and, therefore, the compromise proposal of Senator Schrock's, a soft drink tax, I will tell you if this does not go, I think we're...as Senator Withem says, we're back to voting up or down on the Highway Trust Fund money. I support the teacher pay bill. I would rather not take it out of the Highway Trust Fund but I will tell you that we need a continuing source of funding for this proposal. The Legislature made a commitment in LB 89 to fund the teacher pay proposal. We...I know I'm, and I know Senator Withem and others aren't kidding, this is a promise that we made to the teachers and the people of the State of Nebraska that we would pay teachers at a...this money to bring them up to a reasonable level of salary. And I think it was a reasonable proposal when it was passed. It was a reasonable proposal when Governor Orr signed it and it's a reasonable proposal today. It needs to be funded. I would...I would...I will sit here all day to try to explore other options to funding this other than the Highway Trust Fund. Senator Schrock's proposal is as good as any of them that I have seen, other than LB 1135 which I support, would support over that. But I'm going to vote for Senator Schrock's proposal. It's...I understand, Senator Schrock, it's had a hearing. Is that correct? Could you just answer that for the record?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, this...this amendment is adopted from a proposal by Senator Peterson, although the funding was going to go a different direction, but there was a hearing on a pop tax.

SENATOR ASHFORD: That removes one of the...thank you, Senator Schrock. That removes one of the concerns that the body normally has when we amend bills this late in the session