

with, they think they're going to lose about \$50 million on 1114. So they're going to be \$25 million in the hole. So that half cent sales tax sounds awfully good. I'm pleased that Senator Beutler brought the amendment so we at least can...we must face up to it that eventually we are going to have to figure out some way, after we pass these bills, and I assume they're going to pass, they've come this far, I don't know why they would stumble and fall now. But to start with in Lincoln, now that's my school, so that's what I'm talking about, in Lincoln teachers can't strike but they can go to CIR. And we don't compare our teachers' salaries to people...to teachers in western Nebraska. They're compared to the suburbs...suburban schools in Kansas City, or Des Moines, or Omaha, that kind of comparison. The school board feels they have very little control over teachers' salaries. The other thing that will happen, and they really believe this will...I think it may have happened already in some instances, there are...they'll hire fewer teachers, so there would be more students in each class. Now 25 students is what everyone thinks is a good number, not too many, not too few. Some people who went to school a long time ago think, well, why not 40 or 50 in a class. Well, part of the problem, and a big part of the problem here in Lincoln especially is that 35 years ago there were about three-tenths of 1 percent special needs children in the Lincoln Public Schools. Now we have at least 25 percent special needs children. In a class of 40, 10 will be...have special needs. It takes one teacher to manage six special needs children alone. So the teachers end up, in a way, just being baby-sitters.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: And their salaries are not affected because of their contracts and the way the contracts work for each individual teacher and for the teachers as a whole. One last little number that I think is interesting, our superintendent makes around 100,000, that's another round figure. Thirty-two thousand students in four other schools in Lancaster County, they combine, they serve 5,000, and the combined cost for those superintendents is about 250,000. So when you talk about consolidation, it isn't just out in the small areas that we need to do that. We could have a sizable savings overnight if we could bring those schools into one school district. I agree with him on all of these things, but I also have so many taxpayers. My survey, which the surveys that you do by mail are