

try to encourage people to be teachers, or do we go with virtually no increase, maybe no increase whatsoever, possibly even a decrease I suspect, and save and protect jobs? That's where they're going to be at in the next couple years. And go back just a few years where on the floor of this Legislature people said, you know, we really need to encourage the really sharp young people to get into teaching and we need to get those salaries up there. Look what we're doing today. You know, when we said we really need to try to get the best people in education, reward them and try to give them a learning environment of a class size that's manageable and reasonable, we're doing exact opposite after today. Where we on this floor talked about we want to try to equalize educational opportunity and by the tax...by the levy cap and spending lids you lock in those inequalities until this body decides to change it. You lock them in. There will be no way short of this Legislature increasing taxes to shift monies to those subdivisions, particularly schools, for those inequalities to become unlocked. And you sit and look in your heart of hearts and ask yourself the question when push comes to shove and elections come around next year and two years from now are you going to vote for a tax increase? Are you going to vote for a tax shift? Is the state chamber going to stay on their view of no tax shift? I suspect so. Will the Governor stay on his view of no tax shifts? I expect so. Would the Lieutenant Governor, if she happens to be Governor, continue her policy of no tax shift? I expect so. Would people in the body who already argued that they don't like certain taxes be willing to let those taxes increase, or just the one that you want to increase? For example, maybe my rural colleagues want to do a tax on food or sales tax, but they don't want to do income. If food and sales doesn't go will you vote for an income tax? Or if the income tax doesn't go, those people that don't like sales tax, will you vote for a sales tax and will you have the votes to do it in the body? This is the body that can't even keep its 3 percent reserve. This is a body when we got to the final votes no one on the Appropriations Committee stood and said, we can't do this, we have to hold the line, this goes below the 3 percent reserve. This is the body a year from now that's going to come back and say, we've got what it takes, we'll take the tough decisions, we'll increase taxes. I don't see it. I don't see it. What I do see happening is that...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.