

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 21, 2000 LB 1217

at our high water mark? We can't continue this every year, and I'd say that's right, Senator Raikes, you can't continue it every year. But this is a one-time expenditure, and I'm afraid if I put it back in the cash reserve, what will happen is people with their A bills are going to sit there and say, oh, there's \$20 million more money, and those will be ongoing programs instead of one-time expenditures. That's the reason I chose last year and would choose to do so this year to take and put this \$30 million into that property tax relief because I do think that's going to be the dollar for dollar relief that people will see. There's not that much room for the community colleges to grow and absorb that money and expend it the way the formula works. It actually take \$30 million of their property tax operations and replaces it with state aid monies. So I do think it's a legitimate point to raise, philosophically, where do we go? I'm comfortable with this...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...the use of one-time monies for that sort of property tax relief as opposed to funding many other programs and projects that are going to be year after year expenditures. I know my time is nearing up. I would thank Senator Raikes for raising the issue. I don't plan to vote for the amendment. I am more comfortable with taking this money and not putting it into the cash reserve nor returning it back in the credit. The credit I don't people will see as much, even though it shows up on their property tax statement, but this actually will be as close of a guarantee as I can get to having lower property taxes next year. That's the sort of thing that I want to try to do and would hope that you would also defeat this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. On the Raikes amendment, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to Senator Raikes' amendment and I understand, I hope, the discussion point that he is raising, primarily the issue of whether or not we really did get \$30 million worth of property tax relief out of the monies that we're expending this fiscal year on community colleges. My