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community college taxes levied were \$55,937,000. In 1999, the levy was \$30,598,000. The dollar amount change in the next column is \$25,339,000. That is where I saw or what I was pointing out to you as the \$30 million all of a sudden becoming \$25 million. One way to look at it is if you take the \$30 million levied in 1999 and add \$30 million to that to get 60, which...or \$60,598,000, which would be the comparable number for the 1998, that represents an 8 1/2 percent increase in expenditures. Now Senator Kristensen has pointed out that that maybe includes some other things that we should take into account, but the budget lid is 2 1/2 percent, and that's an 8 1/2 percent increase. And if you...the 84 cent number, quite frankly, is just \$25 million...if you spend 30 and get 25 million back, that is 84 cents on the dollar. So that was my argument there and I stand to be corrected if that is what should happen. A couple of things that Senator Wickersham mentioned I will respond to. He said we're going to drop off the path of property tax relief. Well, does that mean we were wrongheaded last year? Last year we proposed \$30 million, \$35 million and \$35 million. That's what we're going to continue to do this year under this amendment. Senator Wehrbein said he would prefer to stick to what we agreed last year. What we agreed to last year is what this amendment proposes. The additional \$30 million came about this year and I would, again, point out that if we add the \$30 million this year, then where are you going to come up with the additional \$30 million next year and the year after and the year after? I think at some point it has to come home. So I would simply point out to you that staying on the course, as far as I'm concerned, would mean adopting this amendment, not rejecting it. So with that, I'll be happy to hear more discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Tyson, on the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I am not going to worry about whether it's a dollar or whether it's 84 cents. I do worry about people's perception of the money that we have above our immediate needs, and the term used for that here has been surplus. It is not a surplus. It is excessive taxation. The people that I represent look upon it as the state has levied taxes at a higher rate than was necessary