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much as I favor educational expenditures, to say that with regard to K-12 education and those expenditures we will protect them to...and give them the advantage over all other possibilities that might be in front of us. It doesn't necessarily even mean that you're choosing property tax versus "nonproperty" tax, versus something other than property tax relief, because property tax relief can come through a state aid formula or it can come through a county aid formula or it can come by the state picking up local expenditures of one type of another. There are all kinds of property tax relief out there. How do you know that two or three or four or five years in the future you want to have a statute in place that says this form of property tax relief is what will happen as opposed to allowing you to choose from among array of property relief devices that might be your choice? As much as you favor education, how do you know that in a particular year K-12 education may be relatively well off and the university hurting, or the state colleges hurting, or the community colleges hurting? How do you know you won't want to make that choice in the education field within the field of education? Don't you want to be free to make that choice? Why do you want to give up your freedom now when you can always have that...that free choice in the future? And even beyond that I would argue that the first responsibility of the state, of the state sales and income tax, is to finance the necessary state agencies and state functions. If state government is about state functions first and primarily, why do you want to give a priority in statute to what is essentially a state aid program? That question I think you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...could also legitimately ask. Would you be in favor of an automatic formula that provided that the state colleges got some sort of automatic increase every year, or that the university did based on some kind of formula? I don't think that you would because you would think, well, but maybe we need the money some place else more, or maybe the state colleges need it more than the university. Those are choices that need to be there in the future. Does somebody have a crystal ball? Whose crystal ball are we looking at that tells us it's K-12 education in each and every case that would require this particular