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LB 759

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...all of them this year. But in the second half, maybe we can. But I am in support of the underlying division of the question and I am reluctantly going to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment because the Appropriations Committee has taken this into consideration. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. First, I want to thank Senator Cudaback for raising my school finance proposal to the level of a bill. (Laughter) Let's just run it through the Referencing Committee and get it out here. Actually, in all serious, Senator Cudaback, you are right, this is one of the big ones. In fact, I'll take it a step further and say the budget debate really begins right here today with this bill, the next one on school aid, and I welcome it. Quite frankly, it's time to get to the main event. Regarding LB 759, I rise in support of the concept of broadening the sales tax base. I don't have a specific statement on Senator Chambers' amendment. I'm going to take my chance to speak now because if I don't we may go to lunch before another opportunity comes up. Senator Brashear knows that I support the concept of raising...broadening the sales tax base. I've supported previous versions of the people's plan. Even the fuchsia, which was a little hard on the eyes, I supported that one. I went a step further this year. I testified in the Revenue Committee hearing in favor of Senator Redfield's bill that would broaden the sales tax base to include virtually everything except food and medicine. I testified in support of her bill for a couple of reasons. One is that I, of course, was also looking for some more state revenue to change the way we do school finance. But another reason was I still haven't heard a good answer to Senator Aguilar's question that he has asked in several different ways: hey, wait a minute, if we're going to start broadening the sales tax base then why are you going to tax my cleaning business but not, for instance, the law business or some of these other businesses? And I think the answer he was given at the time was something along the lines of, well, we don't need as much revenue that a tax on the legal profession or some of these other businesses would bring in, so we don't need to go there. To me, that's weak, as a public policy response. If that's the case, then we ought to tax