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FLOOR DEBATE

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probably one of the toughest political jobs you can have, is being on a school board of a Class I school. We've had lids in place now for quite some time. And we look back at what state aid to education has done to public schools in the state. It's more or less put the fear of God into a lot of school boards. We've made demands upon them, set rules and guidelines for them. Some of them, or most of them, were warranted. I think our young people are getting a good, sound education. But if we relax the lid now to, say, to \$1.04, that doesn't necessarily mean that each school district is going to automatically go to a \$1.04 levy. You have to remember, they are elected officials also. They are the ones that are in on the farms, and the grocery stores, or in the hardware stores that people of that district have elected to run their education system. They are accountable to the same people that you and I are. They are going to be as frugal, in my opinion, as we are, probably more so, because they are more on the spot. They are closer to their constituents than we are. They live with them day in, day out, work with them, and are their neighbors. So if relaxing the levy lid limit to \$1.04, if you think that that is going to automatically increase your property taxes, I would argue that it's not going to, because those people still have to be accountable. They are given a leadership role in their community to represent all of the taxpayers in that district. And they're neighbors, and they are friends. Most of them are when they get elected; sometimes they aren't when...friends, when their tenure is up. But what I'm trying to emphasize to you is, that doesn't necessarily mean that every school is going to go and take that 4-cent jump. There are some cases where they're going to have to. If the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...state aid is cut to them, and they have the ability to raise another 4 cents, it might happen. But it's going to be with very careful consideration, because they are the ones that are going to be in the hot seat. When we first started state aid to education, I don't believe the leaders in here at that time were of the opinion that this was going to last forever. I sincerely believe that. I think it was a means that was put in place to take care of the hardships that we had