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FLOOR DEBATE

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to raise \$350 million, and therefore I cannot support the committee amendment. I'm sure that doesn't surprise some of you, but that's where I'm at. Because of that...and that's how I'm going to vote. I'm going to encourage others to vote where they're at as well. I think that's only fair in the process, to let us know. We only have 19 days left. And the idea that we're going to somehow miraculously work this out between General and Select...I don't know if anything is being worked out right now on LB 759. I haven't heard yet. But I know there's other things that Senator Beutler alluded to that are going to be worked out. And I think that's perfectly appropriate. But I think for the process and for where we're at in today's debate, I wanted the body to know where I'm at. The other thing that I think is interesting in this discussion, and it's probably rightfully so, and I think it's dependent upon what side of the issue you're trying to push, I don't doubt any of the decisions that are made by the Appropriations Committee as being valuable or reasoned or thought out. In my opinion, they're just a little farther than I can support. And from what I hear and the discussions that I have in my district, it's probably more than some of them want. If you would divide the \$350 million by 1.7 million people, and that was just sales and income tax increases, it's about \$205 a person in additional taxes. Is that a lot of money? I don't know, depending upon how much you make, but I think that that's a real number. Now, that doesn't include any of the other fee bills that we're going to be debating either this session or in the coming years. It doesn't include any of the other programs and ideas that are going on. And we're operating under similar constraints as local boards. Senator Thompson did a very good job, I believe, of explaining the complication that we have that we don't control our own destiny on some programs. Some of them are mandated from Washington, DC. Local school boards, local governments don't control their own destiny in that situation, because some of them are mandated by us, some of them are also mandated by the federal government. I've been watching the local TV stations and watching the bond issue for the storm water project that's being proposed here in Lincoln; again, a federal mandate. But I think within that full discussion, comes back down to the reality of priorities. We have a lot of mandates in the Medicaid program. In fact, I think if we would