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LB 440

were discussing this same funding from the cigarette tax and all, and at that time none of it was put on the table. I think Senator Quandahl had a bill in there to put it all back into General Fund and that didn't get any place. And today, why...well, yesterday we cut the funding to some of the county roads, which affects the rural areas considerably. Those are farm-to-market roads. If you don't have roads from the farm to the market you won't have a town, but that's neither here nor there today. Now today we're working on cutting some aid to these smaller municipalities. This is probably the only aid that these municipalities get from any of the cigarette tax fund. They don't have another income stream. The sales tax in some of those smaller towns isn't exactly the largest part of their revenue. Most of it they rely on property tax for upkeep and operating their town. When you talk about lower...I think Senator Redfield mentioned putting a lower rate of sales tax on and broadening the base of the towns that have a larger windfall, and that's true for the larger cities that have a thriving retail business going on. But some of the smaller towns that have a few stores and that sort of thing, the extra revenue wouldn't amount to very much. As far as their...a lodging tax or anything, that has to be with some of your very larger cities for an income stream. So really on this whole thing of LB 440, I don't mind...if we have to cut it out then I would like to see the Lincoln and Omaha areas and the metropolitan cities take their cuts too. There they get a million bucks out of the cigarette tax fund, Omaha gets a million and a half. Then I think we should go back and put the whole sixty-some million cigarette tax money back in the general revenue and start over again. There's other things that come out of the cigarette tax money, the Game and Parks and everywhere else, and some of the scholarships fund that would be in jeopardy of course. But I really don't see where working on this LB 440 is...that we have before us at the present time will do anything but be a bigger detriment to our rural, small rural towns out in there, most of them using it to either improve their airports, improve some of their water systems and that sort of thing. This is something that most all of them are looking at with the arsenic problem rising up in the future. Our Attorney General hasn't been able to defend that completely yet, so we may be looking at having to overhaul some of the