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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 540

of authority. County boards have a lot of authority. State Legislature doesn't mandate this, mandate this, mandate this. I know. I was on the county board once. A lot of times, if you thought you were in trouble, oh, the legislators, those fools down there in Lincoln, they did this to us. It just wasn't always true. And now I'm on the other side, and now I'm saying those fools back there did that. But you get the point? Boards have more authority than they want to sometimes exercise. School boards are elected. They think they can go an hour or two a month. Those days are past. They deal with millions and millions of dollars anymore, just like county boards do. The days are gone. The days are gone. But the point is here...I'm back to the Mines amendment. I'm getting my mind back on the channel here. You ever have a dream when you're going uphill, you think you're running uphill, then pretty soon you fall back and you never get quite to the top of the hill? You have this dream? I do that all the time. Never get quite to the top of the hill. I never made it yet. You fall backwards. Well, that's the way we're doing here with the counties. We're trying to give them more sales tax, income tax, more state aid, but we keep dropping back. Now we're dropping back again. So now we're going to tell them, you can raise it to this amount. Then there's going to be more of them back on property tax. We've got to figure out what we want here. The state...we have to figure out where we're going here. We're setting our course. One time, I introduced a bill one year, what, \$14 million that went back to the counties? Remember that one? LB 695? But now we're taking those dollars away. We've got to figure out where we're going here. Where are we going? Are we going to have more state aid or less state aid? Where are we going? That's the issue before us. Do we want to have more state aid or less state aid? Do we want to raise the property tax at home? Are our boards going to do that? I don't know if they're going to do it or not, but I would suspect many boards will do it. Many boards will do it, because many boards think that they can pass the buck back to us. I guess I don't know what else to say here. But we really shouldn't have to have any, any, any lid. No lid. Not at all. The board should be responsible, and we should elect good people at home, like they did back 20 years ago when they elected me, you know. Maybe I'm taking that for granted, but you know I think they knew what they were doing.