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LB 540

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Maxwell. This will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Stuhr, you are right. There is more balance between property tax burden and state aid burden. There is balance. And now the problem is they're both feeding off each other and spiraling up at out-of-control growth rates. That's what the problem is. I pushed my light, though, because I sense the nervousness in Senator Bourne's voice and the look in his eye. There's not a trace of anything that I'm trying to do on this amendment here. It's not contaminated by my radioactive proposal, so rest assured. I'm kind of sorry right now that I offered a plan because a plan like that raises as many questions as it answers, and actually what I was asking the body to do, and what I still haven't given hope up that we might do eventually, is not do my plan or anybody's plan. It was just to say, okay, one more year for the status quo in state aid, and after that, we have to do something different. And that was going to be the commitment. What the something different is, maybe it has elements of what I propose, maybe nothing of what I propose ends up in the final plan. I don't care about that. I'm just looking for the commitment. As I say, I haven't given up hope that we'll quit playing at the fringes of this problem and go right to the heart of the budget problem and make a commitment to change the way that we fund K-12 education at the state level. But in the meantime, there's none of that in this amendment, and I just want to make clear I do support the Bourne amendment. That's all. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Bourne. There are no further lights on, Senator Bourne. Did you wish to speak or did you wish to close?

SENATOR BOURNE: If there's no further lights, I'll close.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Okay. You're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I