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LB 407, 574

Coordinating Commission, he also said he did not cut scholarship aid. And so the \$15 million-plus money that is shown there is not really a cut, because it's going to be added back in, in LB 574, which is Senator Raikes' bill combining the scholarship programs. So you don't have an \$80 million cut. Now you're down to \$65 million cut. Okay? Now of that \$65 million cut, 38 percent came out of the university. Thirty-eight percent of the real cut comes out of the university; 50 percent of the real cut comes out of aid to local political subdivisions, and that means property tax problems. You're only shifting to a property tax problem and cutting the university. Those two things are 88 percent of what this is all about, and it's those two things exactly that the Appropriations Committee didn't want to do. And that's what it comes down to, I think. I mean, you can talk about the little individual agencies here and there, and 20 or 30 or 50 thousand dollars here and there. But 38 percent of this cut is a cut of the university, and 50 percent of the cut is a cut of local aid, which means property taxes. So I just wanted to lay that out. We have hit local political subdivisions real hard. We've hit the municipalities real hard. He's taking several million dollars, for example, away from the counties and their jail reimbursement fund, under this amendment. That's one of the biggest items that is not...other than university. And we have already cut out completely one of the state aid funds for counties. If you look at municipalities, they've been cut back, like, 20 percent. And this doesn't even get us to what we've done in the last special session and the last regular session with regard to aid to political subdivisions. We've upped the levy limit from \$1.00 to \$1.04. We know we're going to do that. We're relaxing on this property tax thing. If you adopt this amendment, 50 percent of which is additional cuts to state aid, you will be further relaxing on the property tax reform that we've worked so hard for these last 15 to 20 years. So I think that's really what it's all about. Do you want to hurt the university more? Do you want to create more of a property tax problem? And if that's a fair statement, I think it's also a fair statement to say the Appropriations Committee wanted to go no further on these two items, and Senator Erdman does. That is the question. Thank you.