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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407

That's what we're going to have to do. But also, with that same vein, I felt in this body a certain discomfort. I don't believe that the body felt comfortable in proceeding with trying to raise the appropriate revenue to fill a budget shortfall of \$360 million, \$355 million. And so because of that, I think that we need to have some other options out there to find out exactly what that breakpoint is. Now, if I understand Senator Erdman's proposal correctly, with what he's doing, perhaps we could get by with an extension of LB 1085, and then also an increase in some alcohol taxes. And is that a place that would remove some of the discomfort that some of the body has been feeling up to this point? I'm not sure. But that's...I, like Senator Jensen, probably feels a lot more comfortable with the bottom line figure that Senator Erdman...his amendment comes up with, than what we have before us right now with LB 407. And so for that reason, I guess I like that bottom line figure. How we get there, I guess I have some of the same concerns that other people have. Don't like the idea of shifting to property taxes. Don't particularly like the idea of cutting back on the Supreme Court. You know, there are different items in there. But what it does is it will at least get the discussion going so that we could end up at a place where we'll all...where we all belong. It is our constitutional duty in here, the 49, to pass that balanced budget. And if I heard Senator Raikes correctly, he thought that this was maybe sprung on at the last second, and that he thought that maybe some of the procedure wasn't proper with that. But I will tell you that that constitutional duty to pass a balanced budget is our duty. It's not the duty of the lobby. It's not the duty of the press. It's not the duty of anybody else but us in here in this body. And so I heard Senator Wehrbein last week saying, if you've got suggestions, now is the time to present them. I heard Speaker Bromm say, if you've got suggestions, now is the time to bring them forward. I heard Senator Landis say, now is the time, this is it. And here we are on Tuesday, May 13, and Senator Erdman has at least proposed some changes to LB 407 that hopefully could bring us a little bit closer to a resolution of the matter before this. Because the reality is, is that if we can't come together on something, on something that makes us all feel comfortable, on something that we can all agree to, I...we don't have to read the paper, I think we all know that the Governor has made it