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LB 407

introduced.) On with discussion of the FA1359, offered by Senator Raikes, Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Schimek and 13 others.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I might support the Raikes amendment to this amendment, but I am not going to support AM1881. Let me tell you why. Senator Bourne, if you're listening, maybe we did do something drastic yesterday, and maybe that's what the state needs, but if you're from the 38th Legislative District something drastic happened last year. They cut 19 positions at Clay Center, the university did. It hurt. It hurt bad. And if you're a Lincoln senator and they cut I don't know how many jobs at the Lincoln Correctional Center (inaudible), that hurts. So some drastic things have happened, and now you want to come back in and cut the university some more just because we can't raise a little revenue. A little money means a lot. Now I get together with farmers. That shouldn't be a shock to you. The last thing they said when I came to the Legislature this year was don't raise our property taxes. Well, we did \$1.04 in the committee. I reluctantly supported that. Now we're going to \$1.05? We're just passing the buck, folks. We're putting it back on the people who can least afford to pay for it. The last resource that we should be increasing is our property taxes. You're putting another penny on them. Maybe I shouldn't care. That's an easy way out. We're taking the easy way out. I'd like to say something about the process also. Unless you've served on the Appropriations Committee, you're not quite sure what they go through. Late nights; every state agency comes in, what, three times during the year? Then you go through them and you take cuts, and maybe one senator can take a staff member and come up with a whole new amendment or proposal and it can be dramatic and wonderful, but unless you've gone through the process you don't understand. Now I know tax increases aren't desirable, but we have cut a lot in the past two years, huge amounts of money. Can we come up halfway? Somebody says we need to come halfway. Well, the gap was \$750 million, wasn't it, Senator Wehrbein? It wasn't 350. It was 750. I think we came halfway. Now I don't know whether it's going to be a sales tax on labor to repair clunkers or whether it's a sales tax on services, or whether we have to increase income taxes or what it takes.