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LB 407

followed by Senator Erdman and 11 others.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I think we are moving in the right direction. I appreciate the amendment, as it was brought forward. As I've told before, I'm a bottom line person and I think we're getting closer to where I think that we can end up with. Certainly I think LB 1085, the body said that we would accept that; that we would, yes, that that was a temporary; that we would adopt that and go forward. I certainly could not stay with where we were when we were looking at another 350-60 million dollars in additional revenue. I just couldn't do that. But I think here that we are moving in the right direction. As an aside, in all the articles in the paper, both the World-Herald and Journal Star, on the closing down of the prisons, you would have thought that we were going to close this prison and we were going to shove everybody out that very day, and that anyone that was in that prison was going to go. And I think that was poor reporting, because that was not the case. The case was these people, who are six months away from probation, yes, those might be let out and there would be some changing, but I don't read it the way that was. And then also on KFAB this morning I heard one of the individuals say what's with those idiots in Lincoln kicking everybody out of the jails and there are going to be now sexual perpetrators are going to be out raping individuals and everything else. My goodness! I just don't understand where these...where the responsibility of the media is, and that upsets me. Now if we're going to get anywhere at all, we've got to do this together. I think the amendment by Bromm and Beutler, sure, it would be something that they would rather not do, but we got to face reality and we got to think a little bit about who we're really working for, and that's for the citizens of this state. And at least my district is telling me that they do not want to increase taxes. They're not going to be happy with even the increase that...LB 1085 is there, but I think realistically that's where we have to go. And I think this is a movement in the right direction. I think it works a balance and when we came in here we knew that there was going to be some pain along with this. Certainly I would like to see economic conditions change, but I think we also got to recognize that there's a possibility that before the end of the session or near