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today, when we're really getting down to the nitty-gritty of the fight. You know, which way do you go? Do you cut the education? Do you raise the taxes? I am really undecided this time. But a comment that was made by Senator Wehrbein, I really kind of took that to heart. Realistically, the comments made on education, the schools, you know, there's a lot of excess money, there's a waste of money in there, but realistically he made the comment that it is up to the school board to, you know, look that straight in the eye and do those cuts right at home, and I really totally agree with that. But I am kind of beside myself. I don't know which way to go at this at the present time. I don't like to raise the taxes. First of all, I was not in agreement with going from \$1.00 to \$1.04, and that goes back to only the property owners. It's getting to be a point where it's a penalty to own property anymore, but now we're going to be raising that to \$1.05 to hopefully generate some more money. The majority of my people in my district really support the income tax rate, raising the income tax. Got some e-mails and some letters today on, you know, raise it back to the 1997 level. I get a lot of support for that. But I'm not getting hardly any support, matter of fact none, as far as raising property taxes. So I'm going to continue to listen. As a freshman senator, I'm kind of getting into the works of this now, but I need to get something so that I can defend and take back to my constituents as to the reason I vote in a certain direction. I do not like to cut education, but if this is part of the program and it seems like that's the direction that we're going to be taking, cutting some there and raising some taxes, I possibly will have to join the group and try to get to the ultimate goal. But at the present time, I'm going to continue to listen. And I thank you for this time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, first of all, I just wanted to indicate that certainly the Raikes amendment is an appropriate amendment and I thank him for submitting it. Let me tell you honestly, I hope you reject the amendment. That's what's in my heart. And if you do reject the amendment, what that means to me is you're willing to fight for a little more