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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407, 540

earlier. I think the idea of an income tax instead of increasing property taxes is a good idea. Now, I want you to understand that if we do this and we do LB 540, yeah, it may not impact the overall budget of the Lincoln Public Schools. It may not, depending on whether people are willing to raise the property taxes again. But this is more than just about the Lincoln Public Schools. About...it's about schools all over the state. And there's a lot of different needs and a lot of different resources throughout the state. I liked what Senator Kruse was talking about. You know, a matter of a few cents on the alcohol tax might do some of this for us. I still believe there are other ways, besides cutting into schools. Maybe the lobby has agreed to this, Senator Mines. But have you asked your school teachers in your districts whether they agree to this or not? They are the ones who are going to have to bear the brunt. Have you asked the school boards in your districts how they feel about it? The school district...or, the school boards are the ones who, at the grass roots level, they are the ones who have to deal with all the problems that we're handing down to them. It's kind of like we have to deal with all the problems that the federal government hands down to us, and we get more irritated by the year because there's more mandates, and they don't deliver on the special education money like they said they would, and they don't deliver on the Medicaid money like they should, and Medicare. So we're, in essence, just handing down some of the problems that we're having right now, to the local school districts. And remember, these school board members are all volunteers. And yet, they are faced to...asked to face some of the most serious kinds of problems that you and I are facing to right here on the floor of this Legislature. And I agree with Senator Johnson about the grandest generation. And I think that they sacrificed a lot, and they never complained about it, as Senator Thompson suggested on the floor a few weeks back. But right now, they are the ones that we are going to be hitting the hardest if we drive up property taxes. And you know it, and I know it. They are the elderly, who are on fixed incomes, and they are living, trying to live in their homes, and they are asking us not to increase their property taxes. So I would much rather see us increase income taxes or liquor taxes, or whatever it takes. But not...