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LB 540

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Hudkins, followed by Senators Maxwell, Loudon, Jones, and Foley.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This particular amendment most likely will be returned to Select File. It most likely will be accepted and advanced. But unfortunately, or fortunately, it will have to be done without my vote. I understand why this is being done. I understand all of the ramifications about it. I still don't like it. I'll tell you why. Over the noon hour, I was informed there was an executive order that directed Department of Health and Human Services to cut \$1.8 million from Lancaster Manor, which is the county-run nursing home, roughly 300 beds, I'm not sure. There was no input, no discussion, no advance warning. It was just done. Now, how is Lancaster Manor supposed to take care of the individuals in that facility? They are, for the most part...well, obviously they're elderly. But for the most part, they are quite low-income. No problem, just raise the property taxes. I'm getting a little sick of whatever thing we do, we raise the property taxes. State aid was cut to schools. No problem, raise the property taxes. State aid was cut to cities. No problem, the mayor had a call-in show this noon, saying that because of certain things in the infrastructure of the city of Lincoln, property taxes would most likely go up. Same thing in the county. If you talk to your specific county supervisors, or county commissioners, they're hearing the same thing. They are expected to do more and more with less and less. And that's okay. We all need to be more and more efficient. The property tax situation...let's say we go from \$1.04 to \$1.05. Now, if you are living...and let's just pick some numbers...in a house, \$200,000, that additional penny, if my math is correct, is going to cost you an additional \$100. No problem. But I'm sitting out there on a farm. Based upon the property valuations of my farm, that additional penny is going to cost me an additional \$1,000. Again, no problem. If I don't like it, sell it. Somebody else will be more than happy to pay that property taxes. Am I selfish? Sure, I suppose. But I don't think I'm any more selfish than those who have stood on the floor and said, we don't want an income tax increase. The constitution says that we should provide for the support of the common