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LB 540

And what we did yesterday and what we'll probably do today causes us to recede even further from the \$722 million commitment in our state aid formula. And it increases the fiscal shock wave that we're going to feel when we snap back to the status quo on state aid in 2005. Remember, in your gold book it shows you that the formula projects an increase in '05-06 of 24 percent, followed by an additional 13 percent increase the next year. Now, I'm looking over my shoulder. And maybe he didn't hear it, and I'll skate by. But every time I mention our commitment to state aid under the formula, Senator Raikes pops up and says, everyone just calm down, we don't actually have to honor the numbers produced by the formula. There's flexibility in the formula. K-12ers, do you understand what that means? It means you're going to get jerked around again. That's what that means. My plan is to fund K-12 right where it is, and control future growth by tying it to inflation. Now, a K-12er might say, well, why would I go for that when the current system gives me annual growth rates sometimes double or triple the inflation rate? Well, here's why I think you might want to start doing business with me. Let's look at reality. As Senator Brashear has said, the boom nineties are over. And it was the boom nineties that covered up the dysfunctionality in our current system. K-12 got jerked around last year. K-12 is getting jerked around in a big way this year, including another little jerk yesterday. And the Chairman of the Education Committee has already said in previous floor debate this year that K-12 better not count on getting the state aid projected by the formula in the '05-07 biennium. K-12 is going to get jerked around every year that we continue using an unrealistic formula that produces unrealistic numbers. K-12ers, when you're ready to break out of this mess and get into your own state variable tax that provides you stable, solid, increasing revenue, please talk to me. Until then, I wish you good luck thrashing around in the current dysfunctional system. I will not support the extra penny. I will support LB 540 in whatever form it emerges today. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. After my discussion with Senator Raikes...and since I've