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FLOOR DEBATE

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that they don't have...I've known of schools who have had the disruption of sending out a lot of rif notices and disrupting the morale and the entire atmosphere in the school. And certainly I don't like to see that so I'd like to see some certainty and some advanced planning so that we don't have to make local political subdivisions like that operate in that kind of a knee-jerk fashion. So from that standpoint, planning ahead for what might happen is a good premise and I compliment the courage and foresight of Senator Wehrbein and Senator Raikes and others in these proposals. The other side of this, though, is this, however. When we embarked upon the property tax reduction effort some six, seven years ago, the idea certainly was to reduce property taxes or not have them increase as they had been increasing. And it just seems like there's such an unsatisfiable appetite for money for all purposes, but certainly for schools, too, that even though those efforts were noble and to some extent they've had some impact, people aren't feeling much benefit as we stand here today from that. And that concerns me because it's an automatic increase. It would be like if the income tax or the sales tax were on automatic pilot, whether you had more sales or whether you had more income, when certain things happen you would automatically pay more sales tax or more income tax. That would never be acceptable. What's happening in our area, and I don't know how this is across all of your districts, but I can tell you in the last year we have seen dramatic increases in property valuation--the sales of property, the price that property is bringing, for an assortment of reasons but that's the fact. I think when valuations are again looked at through this year and the end of the year we're going to see a pretty significant increase in property valuations in our area. And what really hurts then is the impact of the increase in valuation of property on...primarily on farm ground, but also some on home values as well, that plus the levy increase is going to be significant. Either one of those factors in and of themselves are significant. But when you combine them, I'm real concerned about that. And I would like to discuss this if Senator Raikes would yield to a question about that.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?