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FLOOR DEBATE

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things. We can't afford not to give the schools a chance to at least move this minor part out from under the lid so that they can increase their property tax a very small smidgen in order to correct a problem in the retirement system that was none of their creation; it just happened. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Senator Janssen, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, I've been listening to the argument on Senator Bourne's bill...or his amendment, and it seems to me that not all districts would have to raise their levy. You all know what your property tax has been, and you've seen the increase in the value of your property, which means more property taxes. So I doubt very much that this is not...\$15 million sounds like a lot of money, but throughout the whole state...and listening to Senator Kopplin talk, I think he's right on track. What the Bourne amendment would do, it will allow that school district, it will allow them to raise their levy if they need to. You know, the school district that I pay taxes to, you know, I think of that as a pretty new institution. But, you know, you start looking and thinking about it, it's 40 years old. It doesn't seem that long. Of course, some of you younger members of the Legislature will find that out. The older you get, you know, time goes by pretty fast. But they need to put in a new sewage treatment plant, you know. And when we built that school we thought this thing would last forever. Well, those things don't. So there is another million or two that they're going to have to spend. And I can't...I can remember, going back in time, no one...no one could imagine...I can't remember the name of the bill, I think it was LB 1059 or something like that, that then we started to use some sales and income tax money to help our schools out. Those dollars have increased such a great extent that it's getting to be kind of mind-boggling how much state aid is going out to the schools. But I want to remind you that it is not necessarily going to be this much money because of the increase in your property tax or the value, the increase in the value of your property. You know, I never thought that my house would be valued at what it is now, but it is. And I could probably get more for it than what it's valued at,