TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 6, 2005 LB 38

we add more to the infrastructure?

SENATOR RAIKES: Obviously, a good question, Senator. You've got to make choices as to where you think the needs are strongest. And certainly, you can weigh this in that context. I would tell you that in this particular case...and maybe it's not altogether different than the issue you're raising regarding the retirement.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Redfield, followed by Senator Stuthman and others.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. You will notice, if you look at the committee statement, that I was present but I did not vote on this bill. I do, however, support the committee amendment. This is an issue that I have voted to support before in Revenue Committee, and we have not gotten to the floor successfully with a bill before. thought it was an unusual choice of terms, that Senator Landis in his opening used the word "self-inflicted wound." when a board is responsive to the taxpayer and they try to promote all the efficiency they can and keep property taxes down, they should not be accused of self-inflicting a wound. I think they were trying to be very responsible. But as in our school formula, we actually punish people by starting from a lower base. And that is why I have historically supported doing some kind of remedy for Northeast College. I have also, as Senator Bourne, in Revenue Committee sat through hearings and discussed this with personnel from the college. And they have talked about their enormous growth rate. And I will tell you that I was somewhat shocked at the handout that Senator Raikes gave us today. It starts...it's a two-page. It says, calculated max and actual tax, on the first page. But on the second page, if you look at Northeast College, you will see that the one-year change of enrollment, far from being explosive, is a 9 percent decrease. In fact, it's the only one of our community colleges that decreased. And the year before, the