

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

the same as the other persons who are speaking to this. I don't think there's any member of Appropriations who promised that this would come back. We may have hoped that. But the reason I can be so confident about that is because that's another biennium. We can't commit ourselves for another biennium. It just isn't the way we work. Where does this come out to? In my mind, and now I speak for myself not for the Appropriations Committee, though I don't think we'd find disagreement on it, I certainly am willing to look at this whole issue next winter when we have another Forecasting Board and when we get a chance to review what we are doing. But when we look at it, friends, let's examine it on a different base. Let's raise the question, is this appropriate use of our money? A good case could be made for it. It has been done for property tax relief. I'll take a hind seat to no one in seeking to do property tax relief. It is a tax shift. That's what we've been talking about, a tax shift. I think that we should look at that, along with everything else, and say, is it time for a tax shift? This year we've made a huge tax shift in our proposal in terms of TEEOSA. A much larger tax shift is proposed in the next biennium. So that's a tax shift, to favor the local school districts. Do we also want to do that for cities and for counties? It's certainly a valid question. It deserves the reflection of this board. I will be content with whatever decision this...the floor makes on it. But at the present, we don't have that kind of money, we don't have that kind...we did not have that kind of option within the Appropriations Committee. We had to simply look at the dollars we had and to figure out the use of them, and at that point, we felt we didn't have more dollars, more than the TEEOSA, which is a huge amount, more than TEEOSA to do for a tax shift to favor property tax. But I certainly...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...affirm that that could be a subject in the future. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, many years ago when you first came out with sales and income tax, that was