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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 542

a bill which, even if it were enacted into law, is not going to achieve a worthwhile purpose. I think Senator Jensen sees this bill as a turf-protecting enterprise and because of his experience, his knowledge, and his concern about the healthcare area, he wants that turf to be protected, also. But I will say again, which representative of any of these entities is going to say, more tax is needed, more taxes are needed? In the agricultural sector, they may be saying, well, we don't want to have to pay taxes on farm machinery, and business will say, okay, let's cut a deal. If you don't allow any taxes to be charged on manufacturing equipment, then we'll team up with you to protect farm machinery and equipment. Then these others begin to form coalitions, and when you get through, you will find out that each entity has done what it could to say, let others pay the taxes. They will all agree, unanimously, that taxing is a necessary methodology by which the state raises revenue. They will begin to fragment when the question is asked, who shall pay the taxes? Just as the mice, who were so enthusiastic about putting a bell on the cat so they would know where the cat was, fell into silence when the old mouse asked, well, who will bell the cat? So when the question is asked, who shall pay the taxes...there was, I think it was Thomas Nast who did a cartoon and it had this circle of people, and each was pointing at the other one to cast blame. So they'd all be in a circle and you'd say, who shall pay the taxes? And each would be pointing at the others. Everybody pays those taxes except me and the interests that I'm concerned about. The structure of this so-called task force is building in guaranteed failure, when they come back and there has been a lot of contention, and they speak in platitudes. Everybody who has enough interest or even curiosity to look into the work product will say, why did the Legislature have to pass a law to get something like this? Why did they put all these people on this commission when they knew in advance that each representative is interested in protecting his or her turf, that the Governor who makes the appointments is looking over his or her shoulder to find political advantage? We can look at some of the appointments to boards and commissions that have been made by Governors down through the years, and those appointments are not reflective of sound judgment and the placement of people who are going to work in the best interests of the public at large--representatives of