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FLOOR DEBATE

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is, the Revenue Committee killed the bill. We're already at 100 million bucks a year. I'm not sure you want to go to 130 million bucks a year, which actually winds up being increased spending for community colleges, as well as some property tax relief. If you wanted to do property tax relief, you'd do it in a different way. And for that reason, I won't be supporting the Louden amendment.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Louden, you're recognized next.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. The last time that the community colleges got an influx of money, I think in 2000, '99, whenever it was, they lowered their levy limit. It was the lowest the levy limit had been for years. I think ours got clear down around 3 cents. Since then, it's been going considerably higher. As Senator Landis says, they're not at their maximum levy, because the Legislature changed the rules there a few years back and gave them authority to go over their maximum levy, with various incantations and whatever it took by the board. And so consequently, the levies have went up. Gets down to the bottom line, the deal is, state is supposed to fund 40 percent, and they haven't done it. Now, how they spend that money, I guess it wouldn't be any different than our state aid to education. When you give out the \$130 million or whatever it is to Omaha Public Schools or Grand Island or any of them, there's not exactly any strings attached on how they spend it. Are they going to spend it for administration? Do they spend it for swimming pools? Do they spend it for fixing up the football fields? Where is it spent? So it's usually all up to the board that receives the money on how that's done, and most generally, we trust them to do it in a way that would be a savings and benefit to everyone involved. With this amendment, we certainly need...this is the first thing that's come up here today that had anything to do with property tax relief. We've had all kinds of sales tax relief, or diverting sales tax from some construction or something like that. But as far as your property tax, this is the first discussion we've had today of any property tax relief. Senator Beutler talked about, they're taking away the state aid to education levy from \$1.05...which was supposed to sunset at \$1,