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we talked about standing firm with the appropriations recommendations to us, and now we're looking at another proposal. It should come as no surprise, when the federal government holds out a carrot and dangles it in front of state and local governments, and they take the bait, and once the hook is in their mouth, the money goes away. And the question that we must decide as a state government is whether we will be bound and stay on that hook. It gives me no pleasure to stand here and oppose Senator Pederson's amendment. However, I will remind you that the federal government has put money into lowering the class size in our K through 12 systems. They put a great deal of money in teachers. And so perhaps we could bite into that hook and we could lower our average class size in Nebraska from the lowest in the nation, of 13.7, to 10. And then the federal government decides to take the money away, and we're left firing teachers. They have offered to hire more law enforcement, and then we will be left with the choice whether or not we're going to make up the difference when federal funds dry up. Highway funds that come from the federal government are distributed to us. And certainly, the Roads Department tell us they have a lot of needs. But if the federal government yanks back millions of dollars from our highways, are we going to then ante up millions of dollars into the program to make them whole? I remember in the Revenue Committee when the federal government mandated that we change from an analog to a digital signal by a date certain for our TV stations and radio stations. And while we had the obligation for NET to provide that change--and it was very, very costly--we had a parade of private entities that came in before us and explained the problem that they had in meeting the federal mandate, and how expensive it was going to be, and they were asking the state to make up with tax relief the costs for them. At some point, we have to say, the state budget is the state budget, and we will set our priorities, and we will determine what they are. And I believe that the Appropriations Committee brought a budget before us that said this is what they thought the priorities should be, and this was not originally included in that priority list. Senator Brown's amendment yesterday on the tax cut bill, remember what her opening was? The federal government used to give more money to these housing authorities, and now they have drastically cut the funds that they give. And therefore, they are coming to us at the state