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LB 1126

Now that is a failed policy and for you to tell me if you hadn't done something instead of being the highest in the nation they would be double highest, that is baloney. You have got a failed tax system and a failed policy on financing education. And nobody wants to fess up because nobody wants to think for themselves here on the subject of taxation, on the subject of financing education. The only thinking that comes into this body on that subject comes out of the NSEA boardroom and their primary concern isn't education, it is teachers and teachers are important and they deserve higher salaries in this state. But they are too close to the subject, to the issue, to face up to the real problem which is the total tax structure and financing of education and other government in this state. Now as long as you keep chasing down that road of failed policies, you will continue to have escalating property taxes and one of these days you will get the property tax revolt. And then don't wonder why, anymore than you wonder why a half a dozen of the other major things that have been in this state had to be done through the Constitution. They had to be done because we never faced up to it. All the major, major things that have been done have been by people grabbing a petition and walking out, whether it is Initiative 300 because we failed to address the family farm issue in some responsible way so we got that irresponsible way or any of the other things. Unless you face up to a restructuring of the tax system, you are going to continue to have your property taxes going up, your teachers lousily paid, your education system poorly distributed with 1,000 school districts, second highest in the United States. It would seem at some point this policy espoused by NSEA is causing most of the problems of education. I urge you to adopt the amendment and then do something on the overall tax system which apparently the only thing that can be done is putting a constitutional limitation on. How else are you going to do it? We seem to have to box ourselves in to force us into action and that would do it.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: So I urge you, I urge you if you are serious about education and you are serious about property