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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...vote is taken responsibly because if this amendment fails, I don't know where we're at. I guess we are back to square one and the next motion is to go back to committee. I don't know where we do, where we go from there (inaudible) it's reconsidered, but I hope that you think seriously about the action and reaction to this amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I think everybody can rest assured that we have a dilemma because, in my mind no matter how you cut it, we're going to raise taxes. If we follow the program that is set out and take off the \$30 million, we're going to raise property taxes to offset that. That's a given. Now somebody could stand up, and I'm not going to, but somebody can say, well, let's put it on income and sales tax; let's don't put any more tax on property. Well, I can see how fast that would die on the vine around here because I don't think there are very many people interested in raising the sales tax and I doubt if there is anybody interested in raising income tax. But the truth of the matter, we are going to raise taxes, because if we take that \$30 million that we've been using to offset property taxes, it is going to go back on and so we are, in a sense, going to raise taxes. There is no getting around that. I don't know how I'm going to vote on this. I don't...I guess I have to put some faith in the Appropriations Committee. As I said, they have a dilemma; they are trying to work with the money that they have and there is only so much money there, and you either go find new money or you make cuts. And I have to agree with some of the discussion that I don't know where you could make that kind of cuts in order to cover the kind of shortfall that we're talking about. I've looked at the budget document and I don't think I could go through there and find places that we could pick up that kind of money. I suppose it's there, but I can tell you right now there is going to be some real...some real tense moments when you