

up the kill motion which is Senator Schmitt's bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I can remember very clearly two years ago when 518 was introduced to this Legislature. I can remember very clearly the same people here today lobbying the merits of 518. Let me review just briefly some of those arguments. It was an unfair tax. There was a lot of cheating going along. It encouraged a lot of people to be less than honest with reporting their inventory, their cattle, farm machinery. It was discriminatory because some businesses had to pay it and other businesses not requiring an inventory did not have to pay it. But to me the major argument, the major reason that I voted for LB 518 two years ago was that we were guaranteed to put a cap on the drain out of the state general fund. We were told time and time and time again that now we would go up to 70 million dollars and never another dime in this particular concept. So when I went back home and I told those property tax payers, yes 518 is going to put some pressure on your property tax, it has to be picked up someplace. But at least we have stopped the unaccountable drain out of the state general fund. Now, two years later, we are putting back into law the most obnoxious portion of that program that we eliminated with LB 518. Both LB 882 and LB 691, we have got one of those magic formulas that cranks money out of the state general fund without any overt act of this Legislature. We are setting up that type of system whereby one level of government sets the expenditure rate, namely the local level of government, and another level of government then is responsible to go out and get the taxes to meet that particular rate of spending. Now that is government in its worst form. We are absolutely ducking our accountability and our responsibility if we vote for a formula whereby we have no control. The answer quite frankly, and it is a tough answer, but it is an answer that I think we have to face, we are going to have to be solid on a limit or on a cap as to how much money is going to be spent, how much money is going to be generated from these formulas. Now what are the ramifications of that? The ramifications are that you are going to have to do some redistributing within that formula. As property values change some are going to lose and some are going to gain. You can't continue to hold everybody harmless. You can't continue to solve these problems by pouring more money and more money on to cover up the deficiencies. That is just exactly what both of these bills do. As far as I am concerned the difference between 882 and 691 is an auction. It is a battle between the rural and the urban interests again. We are going to get into the same arguments over and over again. We are going to perpetuate those arguments. We can't walk away from our responsibility. We can not duck the responsibility that the people have vested in us as their elected representatives. We can not say that we are not going to make those hard decisions