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LB 1002

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I feel like I have been had, to first dangle the carrot before us. We are going to give per pupil allocation and then when there is support locally here in the Legislature we finally change our mind. So I will support the Kahle amendment that is coming up later to change back to per pupil allocation. I think Senator Kahle is right in this to change the present twenty million that was adopted in the Vickers amendment to have it all in a per pupil allocation and I think Senator Dworak, his proposition to include the private schools, should be considered too.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I support the additional twenty million. I certainly would support the Kahle amendment to go per pupil but I think what we are going to be up against is what we can add this year and I don't feel the Legislature or the Governor's office are addressing the real problem that we have got before us and that is the property tax is the most despised tax in the system raising most of the anger of the voters, not the sales/income tax. I am convinced that petition drives to lid property tax spending are forthcoming and that if we don't move in the direction to reduce at least the increase of property taxes and generally reduce property taxes which twenty million dollars does not do. It reduces the rate of increase a mere twenty million dollar figure because property taxes are going up about thirty-five million dollars a year. Now in state government what we have been doing is increasing other areas of government and holding the state share of local funding at a fixed item. This ends up with a 7% budget lid on subdivisions and property taxes increasing at twelve, fourteen percent and this is the tax that has angered the taxpayers. We are playing shenanigans when we say we are conservative in state government so we hold the line on subdivision help and then increase the other spending beyond seven percent, but we stay within the sales/income rates by doing this. It has been played for about eight or nine years here in the Legislature where the shifts have been going onto the real estate and the real estate payers can't take it anymore. The elderly, the farmers, the small businesses that are getting really under a grind, a financial grind, with the economic situation, they can't take it any more and it is about ready to explode. I can't understand why we can't get a better understanding that the property tax is the problem. I had a bill to shift the support of education or Senator Sieck and I had one in the Revenue Committee