

but I would challenge that central district not to be able to find the kind of economies that are necessary to live within the limitation. I do this very hesitatingly because I think of all the educational facilities, I think that these are very efficient and they are very close to the people, and they work very diligently to serve the people, but I think by the same token since they are close to the people they ought to reflect the economic conditions of the people who support them. I very reluctantly have to oppose the bill and I would hope that there are those here who will speak on it also. I am sorry I was not here the day the bill was debated originally, but I think that we have to recognize that the continuation of the philosophy that it is only a small permissive increase ought to be tempered by the fact that we recognize fully well once we provide that permissive authority it is going to be utilized. It is going to be utilized, not just in the one district, but in all the districts and eventually the Metro area will follow. The property taxes are a significant burden upon the people of this state...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and I think that we should recognize that. We should not send the wrong signal. We should not send the wrong signal to any administrator that there is no problem out there. We should recognize there is a problem. We should say to those individuals, as we have said to state employees, as we have said to many others, I'm sorry, it is time for the belt to be tightened. It is time for you to restrain yourself. I oppose the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Smith, then Senator Nelson.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just have a few comments and that is that the property tax increase that we keep talking about here is an increase in the levy in order to raise the same amount of revenue. It is not an increase in dollars that they will gain by doing so. They are doing this because of the fact in my own particular area, Central Community College, they have reached the level of where...the peak of the level where they have the revenue that they need in order to maintain operations of the programs. In speaking to some of the concerns that have been expressed about the fact that people don't observe and they don't go to their board meetings at the local level, I