

I have a lot of people that would certainly like to see LB 33 pass but they don't like the way it's being distributed and this might help somewhat. At least we'd get the foundation first on the per-pupil basis and after all, if you're talking about helping students why, how else can you help them but by counting them first to see what kind of funds you're going to have for each one of them. I hope you'll support this concept. I believe it will help this bill and help it get through. Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. A question of Senator Koch.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Koch, would you respond?

SENATOR KELLY: Senator Koch, not using statute numbers but the names, what are the present priorities out of the school aid fund?

SENATOR KOCH: Present priorities?

SENATOR KELLY: Regarding, say equalization, incentive and foundation.

SENATOR KOCH: Foundation.

SENATOR KELLY: Foundation is the number one now?

SENATOR KOCH: They are both pro-rated under the bill because we do not have enough money to fully fund the present bill.

SENATOR KELLY: What's the second priority?

SENATOR KOCH: Incentive then equalization.

SENATOR KELLY: Thank you very much. As I understand the purpose of state aid, is to give an equal opportunity for education of children and attempting to do this by dollars. The property tax is "the rich districts and the poor districts" seems to not be able to give an equal opportunity to the children. Whether that be true or whether it not be true, what we would be attempting to do is equalize the value of the property and the ability of the schools to provide an education for the children. The state aid that has been on the books, since I believe, about 1968 has used foundation as the basic way to meet this problem of unequal money available for education. Incentive, the ability of the school districts to hire a proper staff has been number two. The ability, under equalization, to equalize the inequities in a school district all of a sudden this nine-year-old program is no longer valuable. The only value would be the money available from the state coffers to the districts to hire advanced degreed people and that becomes the most important thing in LB 33. The referendum vote of two years ago convinced me of how I will vote on state aid. But when we would use state aid and turn the formula around and make incentive first and foundation second, we have a brand new ballgame in state aid. Probably, the people if they would vote on this maybe would pass it. Maybe they would like to have the incentive payment for extra degrees to be the number one priority rather than per-pupil funding out of the state for the school children in Nebraska. But I doubt if