

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. I'll be very brief. To Senator Murphy in regard to Rule 14, this body gives the State Board of Education its powers, and they have an obligation to make certain that minimal standards are established. By the same token your boards of education have the option of attending their meetings on every month on Friday to have an input into what they feel may be unrealistic in terms of minimal standards, that is what Rule 14 is all about. I would say to you that they're not without input, and I'm certain that the State Board of Education, who is elected by region, would be sympathetic to their requests if they felt they were justifiable. In regard to state aid and to education, I can't think of anything that is good for us that does not have its roots in education. The word education comes from a latin word which means to lead out. I don't think anyone in here can deny that education has lead this nation to its position in the world that it presently occupies because it leads us from adolescence to adulthood, from ignorance to knowledge, and from poverty to a livelihood that we call the good life. I cannot say that education is inflationary because those people are part of an enterprise in every community, and they invest their dollars in that community as much as you or I do, or anyone else. To those who are the sellers, they are the buyers. To the degree that their standard of living is effected, your standard of living is also effected because I'm certain that they do business with you, and I'm talking about the teachers and others who are employed therein. It is always inconsistent to me when people say that education is inflationary, it is not, not anymore than anyother business or activity that we have that we call a part of our civilization of the State of Nebraska. The question is, are we going to try to find a way to provide equal educational opportunities for children, and are we going to try to provide a more equal financial base from which to provide these programs. That is the issue. When we say that we're going to increase sales tax, we're also going to get help from those who use this state for any number of reasons, who are not necessarily residents thereof. So, therefore, there is no doubt in my mind that sales tax is a fair tax, because it measures its all by our ability to pay and to buy. It must be one way, and has to be a way in which we attempt to finance education with some degree of equity. Hopefully, some day, through the deliberation of this body, we'll bring about even a greater equity in terms of financing our school systems. Members of this body, good friends, regardless of how you vote this day, I would hope that you do it with all of the consideration and seriousness that you have, and realize that this is for a state good, not from a special interest, that we're talking about a statewide issue, and I would hope that is the way you make your determination. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall LB 33 be advanced. Record your vote. Please vote. Have you voted? Have you all voted? Please vote. Record. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, I ask for a Call of the House and a roll call vote.