

April 8, 1994

LB 1310

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would certainly like to be supportive of this, what I view as a compromise solution to a longstanding nagging, agonizing, divisive issue of the educa...of the school lands. And the bottom line always, of course, is what does this do for the children of the State of Nebraska and the trust fund? And that's where you have to begin and I think it's definitely positive from that point of view to give the trustee a wider flexibility and latitude in dealing with basically our portfolio for the children. And so that's the one positive thing. And the other positive thing is that it spreads...it's going to spread out the educational lands and funds across the state, it's going to bring it into the cities. And I think, in all fairness, to the urban people, you should understand that some of these commercial investments are going to be in your districts and that will spread out the burden. But I think, in all fairness, that's what should happen and it's a reasonable compromise and I hope everybody can support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Mr. Clerk, we have an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Withem would move to amend the amendment. (FA541 appears on page 1829 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, and members of the body, I was at the hearing...first of all, let me tell you what my amendment does. My amendment simply puts an operative date on this section of July 1, I believe it is, of 1997. That would give us an opportunity to look at this policy if we are going to implement it, get some reports back from the Board of Educational Lands and Funds as to how it would be implemented and what their goals and plans would be. So that's what the amendment does. Obviously, there's somewhat of an ulterior motive here that I don't really anticipate that we're going to get to a vote on my amendment on the amendment and then a vote on Senator Wickersham's bill. Some ways I'm sorry that I'm doing this. On the other way, on the other hand, consent calendar is a good tool to do noncontroversial, noncomplex items