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April 27, 1999 LB 144, 812

But I would like the opportunity to discuss that and so will support Senator Bohlke's motion to suspend.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to urge everyone here to vote no on suspending the rules. The subject matter of now LB 144 was previously, I believe, LB 812. And what it seeks to do is to amend a bill passed so long ago that it has become, evidently, a forgotten item, back in the midst of time. It was introduced on January the 20th, 1998, long before any of us got here. It was an important bill, because it was prioritized the next day by Senator Bohlke. It was referred to the Committee on Education, which heard it kindly. I also rise to congratulate Senator Beutler who, on January 22nd, had his name withdrawn as a sponsor. It underwent a number of amendments, and became law on April the 8th, having amended into it portions of another bill, LB 1336. The subject matter of LB 1228 was entitled the Quality Education Accountability Act, and it calls for an assessment. It does not call for NAEP or...which I thought was Nebraska Association of Public Employees, but all it calls for is a test. This is the law and the law is less than a year old and we're changing it now. If I can have Senator Bohlke's assurance that we will change this one before it comes into effect, I'll vote for it. What we're talking about is a very, very serious subject, and we're talking about it, I think, in a very casual fashion. We're going to test a part of some students chosen at random. On a test, we should test every student in the grades chosen to the extent that the subject matter has been presented to them, which I assume is a matter of how deep they go into a textbook. The children are not there to be inculcated with social values, the children are there to be inculcated with information, with knowledge, they are there to be taught to think. And those objectives should be tested objectively. The children that we are now educating in the state of Nebraska will be, upon their entry into the world, in competition with the world. Nebraska products are in competition with the world. When I was selling steel, I sold the products of the Norfolk steel mill in seven countries. It is important that they be able to compete with people. I don't care whether they're competing with someone from Arkansas, or Mississippi, or New York, or Switzerland, or