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FLOOR DEBATE

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sumptuous one at that. So now that they're operational...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...they want to plunder the public till anyway they want to. So they try to masquerade it, they try to disguise it, to camouflage it, as something for the general welfare, but it's really aimed for their good and their benefit. So I'm going to see if the churches are going to score another victory by adopting Senator Maxwell's amendment. He and I may talk about changing the beverage used at some of these sacraments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bromm, on the Maxwell amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to say that I rise to support Senator Maxwell's efforts. I know that it's...these funds will be considered somewhat competing funds in a very scarce arena for money, and I understand that. But at this point, not knowing the fate of LB 305, I think it's a very legitimate proposal to consider providing this little bit of a lifeline, or a little bit of extra incentive, I guess, for increasing the quality of teaching in the state. When it comes right down to it, there aren't very many things we can do to "incent", especially, quality teaching. Most of our...all of our decisions on salary are governed by a very tight salary schedule, a grid, at our local level. And the outstanding teacher, although they might get a plaque now and then, really has few opportunities to be...to have their efforts rewarded. I think that's the context in which I would suggest that we decide whether to support this amendment or not. It would be nice to know where LB 305 was going, perhaps, and we won't know that till after this particular stage of debate on LB 543. But certainly, if things happen in LB 305 that it's necessary to rethink this amendment, that could easily be done. I guess I'm surprised a little bit at the amount of debate in this particular amendment that centers on the private school/public school thing. I really am. Almost...in some of the counties that I represent, in 1 of the counties 32 percent of the kids are educated in private schools. A couple of the other counties