

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 17, 2001

LB 305, 715

revenues, and, again, if I understand, he would oppose allowing a local school board to fully utilize its local property tax revenue base even if they used it to increase teachers salaries, and even if the result would be a year-to-year decline in property tax receipts. For many school systems, the only access to any funding to address teachers salaries would be through an override. I sympathize with the Governor. Tax increases are hard.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: They're certainly not my first choice nor the first choice of the committee's. I think we've turned over every rock that he had and maybe a few more. In the end, we could not find a way to responsibly address an important public policy issue, one that involves money, without proposing a program and paying for it. Senator Maxwell's proposal is perhaps the Governor's best attempt to make it look like we are doing something significant when, in my opinion, we really aren't. It is curious that we are eliminating nearly all the funding except for some we are co-opting from the lottery fund and from other A bills, yet we're expanding the base of teachers we are to provide for from the public school teachers we are constitutionally obligated to, to those, plus all nonpublic teachers. We are spreading a much smaller amount of money over a much bigger group of teachers. I oppose the amendment...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...to the amendment and the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Maxwell did speak to me about LB 715, which is a bill that I did, in fact, introduce into the Education Committee this year. As I, on my own, was looking at the problems that the state of Nebraska faces in regards to teachers and also recognizing the fact that we have limited resources, I was looking for a solution. And the solution that I could come up