

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker, and as well as Senator Burrows' amendment. This is a difficult issue I think for all of us in this body to face and when I face difficult issues one of the first places that I turn is to the Constitution. I look at the U.S. Constitution and I look at the state Constitution and I do that because those are the sacred documents of the political process. Those are the documents from which we draw our source and our obligations to this people, the people we serve, the people that elect us, the people that entrust us with their hopes and their aspirations and when I find in the Nebraska Constitution is an obligation upon you and me to provide for the common schools of this state. If there is one affirmative obligation on the Legislature it is that. We are obligated under the Nebraska Constitution to provide for instruction for all children between the ages of five and twenty-one in the common schools of this state. We are. You and I are, not the voters of Omaha, not the voters of Nebraska City, not the voters of Falls City, but you and I. We have chosen over the years to delegate that duty to locally elected school boards but in the end it is you and I that have been entrusted by our founding fathers and mothers to the education of our children and when you and I know that we have passed a law that essentially has denigrated that process we are violating our constitutional obligation and I can guarantee you that a lid law at this juncture which continues the education of our children in the Omaha public schools and our children of the Nebraska City public schools under a lid, a zero percent property tax growth lid, no growth lid, for more than one year we will bring to our children positive harm and for us to allow that is to deny our own constitutional obligations and duties. The people of Omaha know that is happening. In the first year of actual busing of our children to integrate the Omaha public schools there was a decline in the number of children that parents sent to the Omaha public school but that decline, ladies and gentlemen, was far less than the decline that occurred at the beginning of this school year, far less. Our parents were willing to accept the burdens that school integration brings. They are willing to accept it willfully because they knew it was a positive social virtue but our parents were not willing to accept what is happening to their children under a zero percent increase lid. Now I have children in the Omaha public schools. I have a son who is a junior at Central High School and a daughter who is in Senator Bob Murphy's wife's school, the Windsor School in Omaha, in ex-senator John Savage's school in Omaha...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.