

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I think it is time for...to let the people who are participating in the programs decide that and, of course, if you have a quality program, you need not be afraid. They will stay. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please, followed by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, members of the body, one aspect I think that should also be addressed is if, five students from School A transfer to School B and the dollars follow them. In School B, that system will be able to absorb those five students and their costs will not necessarily go up because they are absorbed in the system. They don't need any more buses. They don't need any more heat, water, lights, teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, they are absorbed. But what happens to the school where the five students left? Their costs go up because they have lost this funding. Their property taxes are going to go up. Now stop and think about that for a while, and let's say that when these five students transferred out of School A, it brought them to a level where they didn't need a teacher or they only needed a teacher half time, so now we have a teacher that is out of a job. On the other hand we have people coming in here saying we have got to pay the teachers more money, that in some fields there is a shortage of teachers, so we have created another problem. The concept of what we are talking about I agree with. However, we are making a radical step. We are tampering with a system that has been in this state for many, many years and possibly there is some things wrong with it and we should change it. However, I don't think we have to do it today or tomorrow. The system will operate. These children will not suffer that much if we wait until next year. This is too big of an issue, too big of an issue to address, quickly pass, and then sit back and say, we hope it works. So I, wholeheartedly, support the motion to bracket the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I don't want to take too long to discuss this, but I believe I am going to support the bracket motion because I feel that we do have