

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Withem. I don't think it would be appropriate to mandate data collection relative to the financing of nonpublic schools. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I guess I support in context what Senator Withem is trying to do here, and as I gather, and I will ask some questions of Senator Withem, where did you disappear to...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, will you respond.

SENATOR HARTNETT: You are not off the griddle yet. It is going to be stored in the State Department of Education, Senator Withem, in Lincoln?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, stored isn't the term that excites me very much because that is...hopefully, it is going to be used...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Well, I guess what my fear is that is what it is going to be. It will be another little book that will be, you know, someplace.

SENATOR WITHEM: If you want me to respond to that...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah, if you would, yeah.

SENATOR WITHEM: Just let me tell you from my perspective as the Chair of the Education Committee over the last three years, there have been countless times when I have had questions about our education system that I could not get answers to, or the only time you could get answers to them is after...the one guy they have over there that knows how the computer operates has spent countless hours putting in a new program and taking it out. We have gone through a school reorganization committee over the last two or three years with countless questions dealing with education as it relates to size of schools, for instance. School Finance Committee, we have spent countless hours seeking answers to questions and be told the data just doesn't exist to answer those questions. I would use this data a great deal, and I would hope that other members, who from time to time have cause to ask questions of the Department of Education, would get a better opportunity to get their questions