

answered if it where there.

SENATOR HARTNETT: In other words, what you are saying, Senator Withem, is that the information that is going to be collected would be used more by this body than a parent or something like that because we have the choice bill creeping through the system this year to decide which school to go to? Is that what you see the use of this material is by a body like this, or rather than a parent?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And, you know, I agree with, you know, your concept, Senator Withem, and the Education Committee. I don't serve...I have a very strong interest in education, I guess, but do you also see that, I have to remember the century, but I remember when, you know, the gifted students, them being, it used to be the national testing that, you know, School A will say, you know, Kearney, I am looking at Senator Langford here, that Kearney is the greatest schools because they do all this, and looking at Senator Kristensen, Minden is not bad. You know, we kind of get into...I am a superintendent, I am waving the flag for Kearney, and if I am down at Minden, I am just using those as examples, and they are not doing too good with graduation and so forth, and we kind of hide the data, is that it? Will it be used by public, like superintendents? I should look at the pay end, too. Is that how you see it, Ron, as schools kind of using it to vie for...or not, or just more of a coll...used more by this body and by...not more used at the state level rather than the local level?

SENATOR WITHEM: I see this information, Senator Hartnett, being used by policy makers at all levels. Now whether or not the data gets reported in a school by school comparison sort of results is a policy decision that the Department...the State Board is grappling with at this point and I don't know whether it will be reported in that fashion or not, but I see it as being useful to a local school board, for instance,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...when they want to know how well the average student in the State of Nebraska is doing on math tests, whether they need to improve their math program or whether their math program is adequate, whether State Board of Education,