

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I feel, and I guess with that I will simply leave it in saying you may want to work with us before the department hearing comes up to try to see if we can devise some questions that would get at some of the questions that have been raised here, and also I would like to work with you on a possible amendment on the makeup of that committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think it was a question of Senator Smith and maybe, you know, and of Senator Moore, their comments, Senator Moore looks...he is in the purse strings idea on the body, but we are adding money to the State Department of Education, and what I see is we are putting an additional burden on the local districts to collect all this information. Are you going to say that each district, the Hastings Public Schools or Bellevue or Papillion, we are going to provide money to hire another clerk or something that they can do this because you are putting, what is it, \$300,000 into the bill for the State Department of Education to collect and codify the information, are you going to do something at the local level? Because I think the recommend of the Governor was simply to keep the money at the same level, and we are asking the local boards of education, local superintendents, and local administrators to do more data collection, and most of them will tell you it is, you know, kind of a pain in the something right now, and we are just simply asking for more and more information without additional funding. You know, maybe the State Department of Education needs the funding, but also the other level, Senator Withem, just a comment or a question or....

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I guess I could respond to that Senator Hartnett, maybe rather vigorously, because the tone of that question is one that has gotten me more and more upset with local school districts who are not at all reluctant to come down here and ask for more money at every turn. You saw them in front of the Appropriations Committee a couple of weeks asking for more state aid. But the minute you start asking them to justify what it is they are doing out there when they get young people in the class room, and are they, in fact, doing...providing the types of services that those youngsters are going to need, and you ask them to start justifying their existence, they come up with a multitude of excuses as to why they can't do it. So, no, this bill does not appropriate any