

against taking away the local control of our school boards, then you should be voting against LB 89 today. If you're sick and tired of the LB 775 type lobbying we have had on this bill, you're sending the message today and saying, no, we're not going to change the whole system but I'll tell you what, I'll tell you what, we're going to come back and we are going to do something for state education this year. But if you pass LB 89 and you don't mean it, you're sending the wrong message. You're sending the message that we're going to dismantle things, the state's going to take over and the local school boards, we don't trust you. Well, the message I want to send today is I wish we could have sent it with an increased state aid pot, we couldn't do that. The message I want to send loud and clear to everybody out there is that I don't care how much you hot-box me, I don't care if you run 10 guys against me, I don't care if you spend a \$100,000 on advertising, if it's wrong, it's wrong. And I think LB 89 in its present form is wrong because you change things so drastically and I think we're making a mistake to move it over just once. Let's don't move it over. Let's leave it where it is and then we can come back and start dealing with state aid like we should be doing. I ask that we not advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator McFarland.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't want to take too much of the time of the body. Gosh knows we have taken three days or four days as it is and the bill is still on General File. Somehow I have a hollow feeling, after all the discussion of LB 89 we're finally getting to a vote on the bill and I have a hollow feeling and I've been trying to sit here and think why is it that I feel so bad about this vote coming up. And I, finally, I think figured it out is that I don't think of in all the days that we have discussed 89, I don't think any of those days we have actually talked about the bill. We have talked about...Senator Moore in his closing...in his, I guess, his final comment on the bill throughout some of the things we have been talking about, he throws out 775 type lobbying. I had to smile on that one, Scotty, just a little bit. We have talked about local control and the state taking over, increase the state aid, changing Equalization and Foundation formula, there's property tax relief, but nowhere have we really talked about the bill. Senator Withem, I think, did probably the best job so far of talking about the bill and I'm not saying that I'm going to do a good job but there are