

April 10, 1989

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Legislature and other bodies to move forward on school financing. Folks, that is not a hammer, that is a ten ton anvil that is going to drop on our heads, and I think it is time that...I guess I just raise that because I haven't heard a lot of people talking about it, but I am concerned about it. You are asking us to give up something we have in hand that I know that works for something that we don't know that we are going to adopt later in the future, and I am very concerned about that. I realize we have a School Finance Committee headed up by Senator Withem that is addressing finances, and Senator Moore is on that committee, but I guess I have difficulty at this particular point asking to vote on faith alone to basically tie the hands of this Legislature to come up with something in the future and give up this current formula without at least an alternative I can look at, a substance that I can hold and I can analyze, and it doesn't appear that that has come out yet and I realize that there is a lot to be done yet, and this issue has got a long ways to go before it is ever passed. But I raise that only as a red flag from my own personal standpoint. I don't know if it bothers anybody else but it does me because we heard a lot about on LR 2CA, the constitutional amendment, that mischief could abound if we changed the or amend the uniformity clause in the Constitution. I think the same could be said in this case as well. I don't know what the representation in this body will look like in '91, but I just want to make sure that I don't totally lose out in my districts, my school districts don't end up on the short end of the stick in this whole process, and that is why I am just a little nervous about voting for something I don't have in front of me and that I'm asked totally on faith to advance the bill. I am going to do that today. Hopefully, in the meantime, we will hear more discussion about what alternative financing mechanisms people are looking at to replace the finance foundation and equalization aid because I think that is something I am going to need an answer for before I can actually vote to pass the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President and members, I share Senator Johnson's problems with sunseting school aid that soon. I don't think by January 1st, 1991, this is going to be workable and in operation. I would suggest that a year later would be probably the earliest feasible date to completely eliminate state aid to schools at best. I would have a couple of questions for Senator Moore, and this really is conceptual and