

SENATOR HALL: Hopefully, clearly, that is going to be difficult to establish but, sure, I think it ought to be. I mean if you have one private school that clearly can afford to buy those books, I think they should be required to do that, but if you have another that, for reasons of inability to purchase those, they should be given first option I think.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Would you agree, and, obviously, you won't agree that we are maybe a little premature with this appropriations until we do have some guidelines are set down by the Department of Education?

SENATOR HALL: Nah, I would say, no, but I would also...I would cover that with the fact that I think we need to work with the Department of Ed, and I would be willing to do that, my point being that this is not something new. It goes back 18 years, and I guess now that we have hit the point where we have a constitutional issue before us, a program that is in place, I guess, yeah, we do need to find out how we can make it work as best possible. I would like to see something put into that program, some level of funding so that rules and regs are established, priorities are established, apportionment is established, and if it is not the 150,000, at least a nominal figure so that we do start down the road of allowing this process to work.

PRESIDENT: Time. Thank you. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, I would yield the first half of my time to Senator Hannibal, let him continue.

PRESIDENT: Okay, continue, Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I am concerned, I think it is good that we have some discussion but it is obvious that this is a new issue to more than just me, more of you than just me, but as I see the issue, it is now considered constitutional and it becomes a policy issue that past Legislatures have said was a good idea. This Legislature hasn't acted on it. The policy issue is, do you want to have students who attend private schools be able to apply for and receive books from the public schools for the classes that they are going to be attending in a private school? If they do that, then the public school, under the way the bill is written, would