

nonpublic. Now Senator Hall added an amendment on during 813 discussion, during the General File discussions, that I think it's worthy of us to be cognizant of exactly what we're talking about here. It was by definition of the budget being over \$1 billion, \$150,000 amendment was not considered a large amount of money. I think many of the people on the floor were interested in spending that money, but I don't think the people on the floor, that many of you knew what the policy implications are of this \$150,000. What the committee is going to offer later, regardless of the passage of this amendment, is an amendment that will strike all of the aid to this program and leave \$1,000 in the program for the promulgation of rules and regulations. Why are we doing this? Two reasons. One, the \$150,000 that is in the program right now is not the full cost of what this program will be, and certainly is not the full cost of what the implications of this program will be. We have letters from the Department of Education that suggest the full funding of this bill alone could be upwards of as high as \$3 million, however, they very quickly point out that we're talking, more practically speaking, somewhere around a half a million dollars, at least in its first couple years. But the implications of where else this program could lead are significant. The position that I have taken is, number one, we've just had a Supreme Court decision that has said it's not unconstitutional,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: ...yet we have no rules and regulations drawn up that need to be drawn up to determine how this 150,000 or 500,000 or \$3 million, whatever the figure ultimately might be, should be distributed. Secondly, we need to make a very deliberate policy decision as to whether we want to fund private schools in this manner. I'm going to run out of time, and I'd like to speak further on this, so I just think I'll put my light back on and continue my discussion later.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Hall and Senator Langford, please. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. I wanted to speak on this, but I have a question for Senator Hannibal, if he could answer very briefly. I know his light is on again, so he won't take much more of my time than is absolutely necessary. You indicated basically that, as I