

especially if we couldn't put away 40 million, how can we spend \$40 million on a continuing basis. We have added our base, we have added to our budget at a much greater rate than what we would have done this morning with the 40 million. I guess I really hate to say this publicly but I am a little bit discouraged with the schools because they want full control of this money in this particular case. I had many tell me we get more here than we get in property tax relief bill, therefore, we should have this money and many of you have alluded to this on the floor. Property tax relief will go back in the form of LB 84, at least, to the broad spectrum of people covering all areas, not just...obviously, all people are going to be paying into schools, but at least it is a form...the money...the actual, there is more money comes back to my district, factually, than there is going to come back through state aid to education, so why is it the schools think that they should be entitled to total relief. Why not provide relief a little bit to all property tax taxpayers at the local level. So I think if we are going to get down to this, I would just urge that we not vote to advance this at all.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to urge you to advance this bill. It now has \$18 million a year for the next two years for state aid to education. I think all of us realize that we should have been providing more state aid to education in the years past, but we let the years slip by without doing anything, and so I think this is one way we can address this problem. It has been said this afternoon or this morning and this afternoon that the school boards aren't acting in good faith. They are not doing their job. The school administrators are not doing their jobs. Well, let me tell you, folks, that they don't have much discretion anymore. We tell them how to spend this money. We tell them that they have got to do this. We tell them they have got to do that. But each time we mandate them doing something, we don't provide the funds, and so what they do, they have to increase property taxes to carry out our mandates. Is this fair? And, Senator Withem, I couldn't hardly believe that you would offer a million dollars for state aid to education. That is a slap in the face of our children, and here you are Chairman of our Education Committee. I can't believe it. I can't believe it. And so I would just hope that we'd go ahead and advance the bill. I think it has