

believe at this time that I will oppose this amendment. This was cutting that down in half and, Senator Withem, it looks to me like you've been all over the board. For a while you were supporting the 18 million per year for two years, then you dropped it down to one million, then you raised it to 98 million, so if we'd take half of that, well, we'd be around the 49 million or \$50 million mark. And now you're co-sponsor of an amendment that drops it back to 9 million, so I don't know. It's hard to figure out what you want to do. But I would like to stay at \$18 million. I think that is a reasonable figure, probably isn't even enough because we haven't added any money to state aid to education for many years and I think it's time we do it. We also talked about the local school board members, that local governing board. We didn't think we could trust them. Well, my goodness, I think that we have very, very capable men and women serving on these school boards. They are very dedicated people. They serve many hours and make many tough decisions and right now one of their tough decisions is the asbestos removal and there are many others. There is school financing, there is change in classes, changes in curriculum and so they have many problems to discuss. As school board members tell me today that they don't know which way to turn because every time we mandate a program, we don't pick up the tab, we don't furnish the dollars and so when they implement that program there is only one place that they can get it and that is from property taxes and that is what the people are concerned about. So if we would leave this at the \$18 million figure, I believe that there would be some property tax relief there because that local school board wouldn't have to raise property taxes to implement some of these programs. So I think it is a property tax relief program and, therefore, I would oppose the Kristensen-Withem amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Kristensen, would you care to speak?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I am going to give the first part of my time to Senator Lamb.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, I rise to support this compromise. I don't think we're going to be able to do everything in the world this year and this certainly is in much less jeopardy for state aid to schools in this body and probably over on the northeast corner than the original