

to some sort of deduction for sending their kids to schools. But my perspective is different, and that being that there is a tremendous tax savings to our state institutions, our public schools in particular, with the passage of this particular bill. I, along with a few other state senators, represent the Millard School District. And in that particular area of the city we're facing tremendous growth. There is discussions of a 50 million dollar bond issue to construct high school, grade schools, middle school, it's tremendous the growth that we've had in that area. And, if there is some way, some way that I can help to reduce property taxes by providing a deduction and maybe some encouragement to some of these parents to construct some sort of private schools, it will see a reduction in our property taxes, or at least not as sharp of an increase in our property taxes. And I think that's a big concern to people across this state is property taxes. Now Senator Hall provided information to us of about 120 million dollar savings to the State of Nebraska or savings to local public school systems through the use of parochials and private schools throughout the state. I think that that's probably, probably we're not getting much argument on the floor over that particular figure. It does offer a tremendous savings to public schools throughout the state. And it's a total bafflement to me, a total bafflement that a group, such as the public school administrators, would be opposed to this particular proposal when the only thing I ever hear from them is how high our property taxes are. And this is an opportunity for us to help reduce property taxes. Now, now in addition, I really don't know why they're opposed to it, to be honest with you. I suppose it might result in fewer hiring of teachers, fewer administrators around the state. They may even have to reduce some, some rifting of teachers. Maybe that is their rationale for opposing this particular proposal. But when we have a system that has shown, through its use over these last...over 100 years, that property taxes are reduced, then I think it's probably something that maybe we ought to encourage to reduce the property tax load of our homeowners. Now, why hasn't this come up before? Why, if this is such a great idea to reduce property taxes, why hasn't this come up before? Well, there's always been discussion about the separation of church and state and constitutional prohibitions against it. And in the packet that Senator Hall provided, he cites to a Minnesota case in the back, Mueller v. Allen, that was an '83 case, and then a list of about four different cases that some of our own Nebraska Supreme Court has looked at in examining the issue and the proper role of church and state. Now at this particular