

going to impact totally on people. And it's really hard for us to go back, I think, and sell the idea of what we call equity in educational opportunities to someone who is going to see nothing but a tax increase overall. You know I guess that I have a difference of opinion with a few people that talk about their biggest concern being the renter. Well, if the renter is not paying property taxes right now, the renter, I know they can say indirectly they are through the cost of their rent, but I don't think to the same tune that a property taxpayer pays right now, because we too heavily support the burden of education with property taxes. That's why I signed on this bill originally, because I think that it is time for the state to get involved. But I hope that we move....I know that we've taken all day on this. I'm not going to feel badly if we take another two or three days, Ron, and I know you might not want to see that happen. But I think we need to have time to move slowly, to work things out, to be willing and open-minded enough...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...to look at the whole picture before we make some decisions. And I'll tell you right now that I remain supportive of the concept, but with reservations. And I hope that the rest of you in here, even though you may have signed on the bill, are looking at it openly, also. I was going to give the remainder of my time to Senator Lamb. He's not here, and I think I'm out of time anyway. So, with that, I guess I'll just sit down again, having said my few cents worth here. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: On the Dierks amendment, Senator Labeledz, would you care to speak to the Dierks amendment? Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, on the amendment. Senator Landis. Senator Moore. Senator Schmit. Senator McFarland. Senator Elmer. Senator Pirsch. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Bingo, you got one. (Laughter.) Yeah, I would like to speak on this. Frankly, I'm very careful on this whole concept of what shall be counted under the lid and what shouldn't be counted under the lid, because you start a run on this lid thing, and start making exceptions to it, the whole thing could begin to unravel, and I don't want to do that. On the other hand, this morning, if you remember, we put an amendment on the bill that said cash gifts, foundation grants, those kinds of things shouldn't be considered under the lid or in the fund for any reason whatsoever because they are monies