

March 20, 1990

LB 346, 1059

purposes of 1059 is to get a much more rational system for funding elementary-secondary education in our state. LB 346 is a small step forward toward funding private education or at least giving some recognition to the contributions that private education gives. It doesn't fund private education at all, and Senator Hall and Senator Labeledz would take exception to the way I started to characterize and they would be right. I think we need to do something with that and, unfortunately, I think that is going to be one of the unfinished pieces of business that is left at the end of this session. I hope that we get a chance to address LB 346 straight-up one more time and I plan on being a more vocal, more active supporter of that legislation than I have been to date. We are back though, what is left now is the Hefner amendment. The Hefner amendment does not give a windfall to the school district that happens to have a private school in that district. It gives benefit recognition to those school districts that service students that are attending private schools primarily, that to the extent to which they serve them. It is a fair, legitimate thing to do I think, if you look at it on its surface. I know people are getting frustrated now with the amendments that are coming on this bill. Ideally, a lot of these things would be published in the Journal and would be allowed to be laid over, so we could all analyze and we could do some analysis of them. We attempted to do that with the amendments on 1059 the other day. We had a briefing session on the amendments on 1059. I know there is frustration that there are things being thrown up on the desk and we have to make decisions on them. We have our staff available over here to give you as much input on what the effects of these will be.

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Pardon me?

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, one minute, thank you. So I guess I am apologizing to people here also for these amendments coming up. I don't know what else to do with them, when you have 11 days left in the session, you have a bill on Select File, one that it is going to be very difficult to move back from Final Reading to offer new amendments; you throw your amendments up when they come, when they are available, and if they aggravate some people, I apologize for that. The Hefner amendment, though, I think is...this isn't anything new to us on the Education