

instructional purposes, for teachers' salaries, all the things that are related to instructing the children in the classroom, classroom equipment, classroom materials that they use. So, from that point of view, I think we all need to pay attention as to what the school budgets are all about and that is quality education. So this particular amendment ensures that the local school districts must look at their budgets and be sure that they aren't inflating just to inflate because they're going to have more money but because they are going to try to work with the shift and help the property owners feel that they aren't carrying the big burden. So it is...I am pleased to support this amendment and I hope that all of you will. I don't know why you would not because it does seem to me that this is our opportunity. And I like what Senator Withem said, is that we take a lot of things for granted when we bring a bill on that everybody understands what we mean. But I like this that it's spelled out and so I will support the amendment and hope that by the time we get done with all these amendments we have a bill that all of us can understand. Yes, we have read the bill but by the time we get finished it's going to be a whole new bill in many ways, so we'll have to pay close attention. And thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please. Senator Dierks. (Gavel.)

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I had visited with Senator Withem about this several times and found out then that Senator Schellpeper was bringing the amendment and asked to sign on it. This has been one of my concerns and I asked this question even up at Platte River at our special little gathering last fall, last winter, and I think that it is necessary to spell this out. And I think, along with that, it should go on the record that the responsibility of fulfilling this obligation rests with the local school boards. I think that the integrity of those boards is necessary for this to occur. And I believe that people should know that. They should know that the school boards are the ones that if we're going to have this local control, why they're the ones that have to provide the impetus for this particular amendment. I think that...I read in the paper a little bit ago when Senator Moore was talking about the gubernatorial candidates and one of them mentioned that we had been doing this piecemeal and I think that