

even if the bill doesn't pass, they need a bit of a shock, because I don't...you know, all those legal, I don't think it's appropriate that they hire for \$20,000 a lobbyist and I don't want to criticize the lobbyists, because they're just doing their job but I am criticizing the management of Educational Lands and Funds for spending school money to defeat this bill and perpetuating the system we have now. My reasons, very briefly, as I have explained before, is that, number one, it's unfair that most of the school land is in a few counties or not in all the counties, so those...the school land does not pay taxes for any purpose other than school purposes in those counties and so that's an unfair situation. There's no money that goes for support of the county, the NRD, the ESU, or anything else except the local school district. I also believe that the schools will benefit. The school children in the state will benefit if that land is returned to the tax rolls, because, as I mentioned previously, the...I think that land is undervalued. Their estimates of value are low. If that's sold at auction, as prescribed in this bill, the land will bring a lot more money than they are saying it will, and the fact that they have those estimates low means that their earnings look higher. Their earnings are not as high as they look on a percentage...percent of investment because they're holding the investment low. I think that would happen. We'll be willing to work with anyone that has amendments to alleviate any problem they have with this at Select File. And I appreciate some of the comments that have been made today in regard to possible problems. If I have some time left, Mr. Chairman, I would give that to Senator Wickersham.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Lamb, and Mr. Speaker. Just very briefly, I want to reiterate what Howard had to say about the need for an examination of the operations at the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. Not only have they devoted, by their own disclosures, \$20,000 of school funds to lobbying against this bill, in many respects I think you can point out that they do not comply with current statutory procedures. For example, there is a statute which requires them to file an annual report with the Clerk of the Legislature. I have made an examination of the last couple of year's indexes of reports filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and do not find any filings by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. They do file a biennium report but they don't bother to file that with