

there. The school districts were empowered to make those decisions. What happened? And this is the problem, this is the problem Senator Conway is attempting to address here. What happened was in most cases the teachers came in with a plan and the administrators, the supposed educational leaders in our state, who were supposed to be making sound judgments on where school districts ought to be going to improve themselves, gave a collective shrug of their shoulders and said, your money, do anything you want to with it. It was really management's responsibility to come in with counterplans on how the money could be used more effectively to promote quality education. But the administrators of the state, I don't know as a collective judgment or individually, by coincidence, came to the conclusion, teachers' money, do with it as you please. The administrators on this particular bill were never particularly happy with it, were never particularly supportive of it, but they never really quite had the whatever it takes to come in and make suggestions to improve it. And they certainly didn't do anything at the local level because they almost all said, teachers' union, distribute it the way you want to. I don't like the way the teachers' union distributed it. I share that same concern that Senator Conway had. But I think maybe, if anything, rather than mandating equalized dollar distribution which is...it really takes any gem of this money being used as...as solving educational problems, takes that out totally, maybe what we ought to be doing is working on language that would mandate that...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...that the administrators would at least be forced to give some creative thought on what they think needs to be done with these dollars and that they show some leadership in this area instead of just acquiescing. I agree again with...with this version...this amendment to the amendment because it does then leave in place the performance base concept. I will be opposing this particular amendment of Senator Conway's after this amendment goes on. I share his frustration. I think there are other ways of getting at the frustration. I'm as frustrated with it as if you can recall last year when we were reauthorizing LB 91, I was very frustrated and I would appreciate other thoughts on how we may deal with that frustration. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Schimek.