

if not this year certainly next year, and it is my hope and I know Senator Wickersham's hope that it will be this year that we deal with the issue. This particular issue is a done deal as far as 829 is concerned. The Legislature has decided that. Senator Wickersham is saying let's talk about the future what we need to do, and I don't disagree with that, Senator Wickersham, as you and I both know we have a lot of agreement on the issue on income tax rebate. But where we disagree is right here as whether this is the time to do that and my argument is that's another battle for another time that will be coming up. But we don't want to make that type of major change now because it is hotly contested. They do need to have a lot of care. Whatever we do as a Legislature, we need to have a grass...a ground up support for that so that we can build that consensus to make whatever changes on the income tax rebate work. And I might point out the reason that we're going to have to do something in the future on the income tax rebate is certainly we cannot continue to go in the way that we are now, because as you...the more income a district has, certainly the more wealth that they will accumulate as compared to the poorer income districts. And what we are trying to accomplish in 1059 on an equal educational opportunity for all of Nebraska's children is beginning...it may...it not only is beginning to, it will slip away if we don't make those changes. But now is not the time. And, at this point, Madam President, I withdraw the Bernard-Stevens amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Bernard-Stevens amendment is withdrawn. We return now to discussion of the Wickersham amendment. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. Again, I am left almost slack-jawed by Senator Bernard-Stevens. If we do not adopt my amendment, we will make substantial changes in current policy. If we do not adopt my amendment, we make substantial changes in current policy, not the other way around. The way the bill is currently constituted makes a substantial change. It actually takes income tax rebate away from a school district. It does that. That is the change. The reason I'm offering the amendment is to bring us back to current policy after September 1st of this year. I am absolutely slack-jawed to hear it argued that to come back to current policy is somehow a major change in current policy. It is not that. It is an attempt to maintain current policy, recognizing the realities of what I think were rather ill-advised and certainly less than