

do otherwise? And I am not sure I have a good answer for that. The other question I think I will throw out just for people to think about, if anything else, is if you had, if you talked to a school district and you said, here's a 150,000 or 250,000 dollars so that you could hook up and get all the wiring into Internet, and we will wire all the buildings and all the other things, and you ask the school district the question, if you had the \$250,000, would you rather put it there or would there be another higher priority in education to put it into? I don't know what the answer is. I have a sneaky suspicion that there are so many budget cuts coming down the line, that they need it in other areas. Now, granted, this is lottery dollars and it wouldn't be monies of their own, but if we are using money for education, we have to ask, I think, the fundamental question, that which what we are doing does, in fact, give us more of an educational quality and ability than which we had before. So, consequently, thank you, Senator Janssen, I...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...I appreciate the note. In closing, I think we need to look at the educational value side, we need to look to see if this the proper thing to do, and just to direct...Senator Janssen brought me this note, which was very accurate, I might want to point out that one of the things he mentioned was that the largest school have the grant writing ability, and that is true. But I know in the grant proposals that were given out, and OPS as being a good example, OPS did not get any dollars from the process, even though they have a lot of good grant writers there. So some would argue that it maybe favored even smaller schools more, but that is neither here nor there. I appreciate the time and yield the rest of my seconds back.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Withem, your light is next.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, members of the body, I would like to make a couple of responses to some of the things that were mentioned. First of all, I guess Senator Maurstad isn't in here, but I wish he had been in the Legislature at the time, not because Senator Byars wasn't a good senator, but because somebody should have stood up at that time and pointed out to us that when we were empowering ESUs to become the nodes for the Internet connection that they could have provided that service