

hooked up to Internet. And out in your district well there's only three schools and only one is hooked up. This will really benefit schools and benefit young children, and that's what it's about, folks. We're...we talk about the lid exception. That may be used by five or six schools. There's another, we have the half cent, or excuse me, the half of the ESU levy that could be used. And if we use the School Weatherization there would be no need, there would be no need to use the lid exception. There are a lot of school boards that are running scared and we still have the Educational Innovation Fund. If you'd take a look, if you would take a look at the Innovation...Education Innovation Fund, Lincoln Public Schools have received over \$600,000 for that. Now they've taken money out of their General Fund, and I applaud them, to hook up Internet. Now they could have used this...they could have used the Innovation Fund to hook up Internet, they chose not to, several schools have, close to \$2 million. And this is one of the options that we have, the lid exception is just a small part of that. And I think school districts will take a good look at that before they use that. But let's not lose focus of what we're doing this for. If you don't think we're on the information highway, you don't watch television or you don't listen to the news. If you...every week there's an article in News Week, or there's an article in Time Magazine, what have you. We're in the information highway right now, folks, and it's time that we do something. And we've already taken care of the policy question. LB 452 and 348 in 1993, where we give the ESU's the taxing levy authority, we made the policy decision. But the thing that we haven't done is we haven't given any support to the schools. So I would urge all of you to defeat the Wickersham amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I...while we were doing Final Reading I wrote out the same amendment that Senator Wickersham has written out, unknown to me that he was doing that. I support, I need to make it clear, the balance of the amendment and I will talk about that when we get to that issue. But the reason I was going to file the amendment because it seemed like another very excellent opportunity to talk about property tax and whether or not you're going to make property tax continue to carry some of the burden. Certainly from my viewpoint the purpose of the bill was to generate, to