

May 9, 1995

LB 613  
LR 93

he was talking about the derelict Governor. I think, scenario at that point, so I'll let Senator Withem do that one. But we need to separate the education portion because it's so tied into so many complicated factors that to include it with all of the other lids just in a general policy thing I think is going to bode us ill will when we get to solving those other education finance issues, which I'll talk about a little bit later.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bohlke on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, I thank Senator Withem for bringing the issue before us because, as he said, we really haven't had an opportunity except for a little bit on the Micron bill, I guess, to talk much about school finance. And what he said is very true as far as the number of people here when they passed 1059 and that includes school administrators I think too, Senator Withem, you know, the phone calls that we get from school administrators saying I'm supposed to get 45 percent of my budget from the Legislature, which was never the intent. So we do have a problem in discussing that. What I think what Senator Withem's amendment does and the decision that we have to make is truly the whole issue that he brought up right now about the annual growth rate, how that recommendation was supposed to be brought to the Education Committee and to the Legislature. That hasn't been done. How the fact is when we were drawing up the Micron bill at first some people didn't realize what an impact that could have on the income tax rebate, but it is all very, very complicated and as we look this summer the Education Committee plans to focus on school finance, especially with LR 93 and the implications that could be there. And I've said all along I've been trying to figure out how all the parts of this puzzle fit together. If we do this and, at the same time, if we have the dollar cap and certainly the things that the schools have to...are mandated that they have to deal with, but as we're talking about school finance, you know, we're looking at areas of transportation. We're saying, all right, can we afford to fund transportation in the State of Nebraska? What about collapsing the present tier system? That's another issue. What about introducing income into the formula? That's another issue. Because all of these are issues that we will be focusing on this summer and the dialog we'll be having with the Revenue Committee's hearings that they'll be going forward with, I think that a case can be made that we should set aside school finance. When we do that though, and this is, I think, in the end the