

May 9, 1995

LB 613

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: That would save 16 million dollars...

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Sixteen million dollars.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...a year in the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: And then cities and counties, and that's all I looked at, would be about 9,200,000 dollars.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Now that's assuming that everybody is going to use the allowable limit.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Right, because even if we lower that range for school spending they can use the one percent to go back to where they would have been, that supermajority one percent.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: So even with the Withem amendment, that 16, basically schools would be...one percent in...which is what the Withem amendment would put it back up, that's 16 million dollars.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: He would retain the current lid.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Um-hum. Okay. Thank you. Well, basically, I really don't like LB 613. I have never favored lids. I think that you're better off putting it back to elected officials. If you're...if you have a lid, say you have a 5 percent lid and you go in there one year and you said, well, we really don't need 5 percent increase but we're going to use it because if we don't next year we might need it, so let's go in there every year, let's take whatever the state allows us to have in a lid. So unless you have a zero percent lid, everybody has a zero percent lid, it doesn't do any good to have any lid. I think you're better off to just let the local elected officials do it. The problem comes from using property taxes to fund education. If we had in Nebraska some other way to fund prop...to fund education besides property taxes we wouldn't be having this discussion this morning. That's the whole problem right now is using property taxes to fund education when about 75 percent of your property taxes goes to fund education. This state has to find some way to fund education besides property taxes. That's our problem, not having a lid. The local elected officials are elected to run whatever government entity they're out there to...elected for, whether it's the county or the city or NRD or whatever it is, a school. Let them do their...their