

May 9, 1995

LB 613

percentages. There are many things that I think impact school aid and certainly LB 1059 and they are indeed complicated and so I'll be listening to see if Senator Withem has determined if he and Senator McKenzie...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...can come up with something before Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Robinson, I do appreciate the discussion that we've had on this amendment. Would like to comment a little bit about what I plan on doing now, would like, I know we get tons of stuff on our desk and as you can see by mine, it doesn't get a lot of attention necessarily, but I think because of the fact that school spending is such a high portion of our budget that it would be beneficial to take a little bit of attention to some of these documents here. One of them is out of the report of the School Finance Review Commission that shows a 10-year average growth in spending in Nebraska schools and it's been about 6.5 percent total disbursements. When we wrote 1059 we hoped it would be at about 5 percent which I think is an indication that if you believe in state lids to control spending, which I have become an advocate of over the years, particularly the way 1059 is written, probably Senator McKenzie and her bill has a point that it may not have been as tight as it should have been to accomplish its goals. My preference, I think, I indicated earlier would be as opposed to going in and dropping the percentage point just by one point and thinking we've done something good by doing that would be to get into it and actually do, I think, what was envisioned that we'd be doing on an annual basis, looking at some of the exemptions, looking at some of the other aspects of it, but I certainly do understand the need for the bill, particularly, and I don't know how many times this point has been made but one of the things that makes me think that the lid needs to be continued on cities and counties, this year particularly, is because of the status of the property tax problem in our state. We have individuals in our state quite concerned and upset about their property tax rates. At the same time we're having a huge revaluation taking place and that's the time particularly when the valuations are going up it will be a temptation to continue rates as they were to take advantage of the spending that is possible through the

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