

613 was designed to do is to continue that lid and then we got another wild hair and we decided that while we're at it let's really start telling the public how much we're really going to help them on property tax, let's lower the lids one more percentage. And I'm going to support the Vrtiska amendment and, Floyd, you know whenever you and I get together on an amendment it goes down in flames so I'm assuming we're just going to get, there may be two votes and we'll try to shoot for that third somewhere. But one of the concerns I have on what we're doing to public schools is an example that happened in North Platte, Nebraska this last time around. School board really bit the bullet. They were afraid that they would not get as much state aid as they originally were told and so they really went and they cut the budget about 10 percent. Again, let me say that the school district cut their budget 10 percent. And in prior years when people were yelling about the cost of property taxes...what was being paid, no one went to the budget hearings that Senator McKenzie talked about. But this last time around the entire place was packed and the reason that it was packed is because you had patrons, parents that had children in the schools saying, don't cut those programs, we'd rather you do something else. And there was a tremendous outcry on the budget cuts. What all you're doing on this particular bill is a feel good bill. You're extending the lids and I think that's appropriate, but the other thing you're doing is just saying we're not going to look at any of the other education issues out there, we're going to look at them later. We're going to look at the tiers later. We're going to look at the income tax rebate later.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: We're going to look at all of the other things later, but what we're going to do is cut your lid down a percentage because it sounds good and all you're going to do is force the school districts to reduce even further. And all you're doing at some point is affecting a major part of education for no reason that I can think of except Senator McKenzie can stand up and say if we did 1 percent we may actually reduce \$16 million of which you put \$16 million statewide and your property tax relief is pennies, pennies. Why do you want to do that? I do not understand. What we need to do in this Legislature is wait until next year when those bills do come up and we attack all of those issues and then we set the proper lid when we see everything as being on the table.