

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I am not sure the departments can waive a hearing...a rule and reg without some type of hearing. I know they can't waive a statute, so any rule and reg in Rule 51 that's a rule and reg because of a statute, that can't be waived. And if you go down the list on the Rule 51, on those areas that are nonstatute, can anyone in this body guarantee me that this waiving of a statute, supposedly, is going to allow all school districts enough flexibility that there will be no difficulties? You can't do that. Why would you want to do that at the same time we are doing the lowering of their budget growths? Why would you want to take the step and say we are so desperate for cash that we are going to hit you with a lid, we are going to stop the growth, and we'll give you no growth at all?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Madam President, and members of the body, I yield my time to Senator Bromm.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jones. I'd just like to respond to a couple of things, I guess, that particularly Senator Bernard-Stevens brought up. This is not only about money. This is about saving, I think, a system that has gotten totally out of control. It is about trying to curb the line that is going at about a 30-degree angle straight up that is an entitlement program and that we can't afford to continue to fund. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you've been to enough revenue committee hearings this last summer, meetings trying to figure out what to do about the spending and the taxes. You know we've only got so many people in this state. I'd like to know how you intend to fund this thing in about five years. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you yield to a question, please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, if we don't get a handle on this, how do you expect to pay for this in about five years? What is your suggestion on taxes?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Easy, Senator Bromm.