

look for cuts in spending that might come from administration and management or other such areas of the budget. So, basically, the language of the amendment just states that when we...when we ask school districts to look for those reductions in their budget that we want to protect the instructional expenditures for children, that we want to encourage reduction in management, middle management, central office expenditures, positions that are not directly related to the education of children, that we want it cut from administrative travel or memberships or money that we know, any of us who have been in education, is often there, before we start talking about cutting what we're about in education for kids. I, again, offer it for the opportunity to discuss the intent.

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

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I, as a Senator, I rise representing obviously the constituents of Lincoln County but also as a state senator, and I would have to oppose the amendment based upon the concept that micromanaging is not the place for the Legislature to do so, it's the elected local officials and their philosophy that should determine where cuts are or are not going to be made. But understanding that Senator McKenzie is going to withdraw the amendment, I would like to speak just as an individual, not as a senator representing the people, and as my own personal self. Senator McKenzie, I agree wholeheartedly with what you're trying to do. I have felt for a long time that one of the things that we had forgotten, as a state and maybe even as a country, is that our education system is to teach basics of knowledge and thinking skills of knowledge so that our young people can participate and improve the life that we share and that they will share as they become adults. We've gotten carried away in all of the other things that we're trying to do, and it is not to say that athletics or art or whatever the case may be are not all, mock trial, being an example, I was a part of and supported strongly, are not all educational things. Students can learn from all things. All things are educational but there is going to become a point, and I believe the point is now, we just haven't quite philosophically gotten to the point where we need...where we're willing to make the decision yet, where we will be making decisions to augment the academic portion and the community and other areas are going to have to pick up the other part of it. The education of a child is a community process and