

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, in the Health and Human Services area, the greatest defender of the downtrodden in this district, would he think that because we're giving child support payment, or giving...Senator Wesely, do you believe that we give support payments to Aid to Dependent Children, to individuals below a certain income level, we should also give those same payments for individuals above that income level? Because those people have already paid for their own groceries, so we ought to give them money back to buy, to...I mean, that's the concept that is coming out here. Because a school district happened to be wealthy enough or farsighted enough or whatever reason, willing to spend its own money to go ahead and do this, we ought to give them money back as opposed to meeting those unmet needs in our state. It's just phenomenal. You know, Senator Beutler and Senator Wesely, I point out to you that over this last year I've become a little more sympathetic to Lincoln public school districts concerns about school finance. And I know I visited with some of those people about this and their position is because they've spent the money, nobody else in the state ought to get it. And that really makes me reevaluate how sincere those folks are about wanting to do something fair about school finance. I really do think this is an atrocious amendment and I would urge you not to support it. Senator Robinson, if you need any more time beings you didn't have any, I'd yield to you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Robinson. Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Pardon me?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Your light is next, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, this argument is not about rich schools, poor schools and not helping the poor schools, and I really object to the framing of the argument in that manner because it is not true. That is not what this is about and those who are arguing that probably know that best. Many of the schools on this list who have made the expenditures are what we call equalization schools. They are schools who normally get a lot of money in equalization, which means that they are poor schools relatively speaking. It is poor schools as well as well off schools who have made these expenditures already, and because some of them are poor schools, it reflects their educational philosophy in how important it is to them that their kids be on the cutting edge of technology. And it's just