

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...really talk about it and try to get a bill together because it appears that the majority of individuals want to pass a bill dealing with Internet for all school districts and if that's the case then we'd better start looking at this seriously and putting it into a shape where that can be accomplished a lot more equitably, because when this bill gets out and that supporters of this bill, the NSEA and the Department of Education and the school boards, when you have to go and talk to those individuals in those districts that you represent and that's every district in Nebraska, I hope you have some answers because I know I can't understand what they might be on why this bill is going forward in the shape that it's in.

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

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members, I hesitate to put my light on because of the amount of time we're taking. But I listened to Senator Beutler and the challenge that he issued, and as I sat here I was trying to think in other areas where we have done the very same thing. And then it occurred to me we did the very same thing with the Weatherization Funds in the beginning. Those Weatherization Funds were originally started as grants, and I know there were school districts out there, Senator Beutler, who had gone ahead with remodeling projects, who had put in new windows, who had done all of those things and still we recognized a need for schools that had not been able to afford that and to go forward. So it's not something new that we're doing. And I think we continue to talk about how we're going to respond to school districts and superintendents and the boards of education when Senator Chambers and Senator Robinson raised the real question that continues to be there that I would challenge right back to you, Senator Beutler, in knowing that you have always been very concerned with equal opportunity for kids. I know you have been, I serve on the Education Committee with you and I know that's a concern of yours. But if we use this money and allow it to go back to those districts, what money will be left to provide the opportunities for those children who have not had that equal opportunity? I mean that to me makes no sense. We have done it in the past. We have gone ahead and recognized a new need in school districts and have set up a grant program to recognize that need and it was certainly never considered to give those school districts back the money that they had already spent in that area. I just...I