

monies for education in this country, nor will we be for a long time, I believe, because it causes so much division, even in this body I'm afraid it would be. So, Senator Lynch, it's good to say that, you know, you have a concern, I know you do because you have had a concern all along on a lot of other issues, textbook loan program that Senator Hall and others have paid attention to that issue. But I know the majority in this body do not and do not even want to bring that issue to the floor of the Legislature. So I didn't bring the amendment. I have the amendment written, you're welcome to read it. But I didn't bring it to the floor just knowing that there were so many other issues on 860 that I have problems and concerns with, and I wanted to focus on 860, trying to make it a better bill. My amendments were filed May 22nd, so this isn't a last minute concern here. I spoke on the bill on Select File, in fact I spoke in favor of 860 and voted in favor of it on General. But it took such a drastic change and turn on Select File, that's when I filed my amendments on 860 trying to...trying to make some sense out of it because it really lost of it to me on Select File, and I had a lot of concerns, and that's after my school district talked to me.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: So my amendments were originally filed May 22nd, not June 1st, and I think that I had a legitimate concern all along and I wanted to address them. One of those concerns was the private schools, but it's a whole other issue that I just felt that we really couldn't address on this bill, or maybe even at this time in Nebraska, or even in America, given what's gone on in some states. And I didn't want to have divisiveness here on the floor of the Legislature on this bill. So it has been a concern and it is something that I wanted to address, and I'm sure Senator Beutler, at one time, would agree to have that discussion because he has been sympathetic to some of the bills that I have brought in to the Education Committee. So another time we will have that discussion on real equity and really helping all the children in the State of Nebraska have access to the Internet. Thank you.

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

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I haven't talked to anything on this bill at all. And I will say just a little bit of the reason that I have voted in favor