

February 13, 1996 LB 349

don't know the exact wording of it, but I understand that it does strike out the income tax rebate and that portion of the amendment is appropriate and I would simply ask your support for this motion to reconsider the vote taken yesterday on Senator Robak's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, yesterday I think one of the things that happened, I think Senator Robak would agree with this, was that we moved through the agenda a little more quickly than we anticipated and we hit LB 349 a little quicker than we anticipated. And the debate on Senator Robak's amendment to delete a portion of the committee amendments was somewhat less than complete. And the vote came up and I think a lot of people maybe did not cast as intelligent a vote as what they may have liked to. So I think it's very appropriate that Senator Wickersham is offering this amendment to reconsider. Having said that it's an appropriate motion does not mean that I agree with it, however. I think that, that the concept of adding income as a factor within the state aid formula is not an idea that I can support. And I will discuss that when we get to the bill itself. What the Education Committee did, however, in sending LB 349 to the floor was that they, at least, mitigated the impact of, of whatever negatives there might be in putting income in the factor by at the same time putting some sort of limitation on the rebate. It was not the limitation that I would have approved, that I would have liked to have seen. I would like to say and I said at the Education Committee at the time that if the, the body, the Education Committee or the body was of a mood to repeal the rebate entirely, then I might look more favorably at some sort of an income factor in the distribution formula. The committee was not willing to do that. The committee looked at abolishing the rebate, chose not to do that. They looked at another cap on the rebate, chose not to do that and ended up with, in my mind, a fairly weak cap on rebate in adopting Senator Wickersham's proposal and put that to the floor as a package. I think now at this point by...Senator Wickersham looked at me like I may have spoken something not entirely correct, but I guess I'll let him respond to that. That was my understanding, anyway, Senator Wickersham, was that this was a package that we were going to limit the rebate and put in an income factor into the bill. The