

February 13, 1996 LB 349

There's no compelling reason to change it now by adding, by advancing LB 349...

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...and passing it you'll be adding inequities to the, to the state aid formula and you should not be doing that. I urge the body not to advance LB 349.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely...Senator Wesely, Senator Warner...Withem. Is that your name? (Laugh.) Had a side conversation going on. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President and members, I rise to try and explain a little bit further what Senator Withem was saying in trying to understand what this really does. You had a chart passed out to you, it's on your chair, and it really shows that if you, you have four possibilities when you introduce income into the formula. Certainly those districts with high property value are going to not benefit, it's questionable on two others. If you drop down to the right-hand corner you see where the property value decreased. These would be equalized districts that have low property value. That is not, I think, when I have gone out and talked to people and they've said, we want income introduced into the formula, and as I looked at this bill I have said to my farmers, you should be careful about what you're wishing for. Let me give you an example. As we look, as I said, I always am interested in looking at Sandhills Public School because when we went out and the Education Committee went out and did our hearings two summers ago, people from Sandhills Public School said we have proportionately more free and reduced lunch students than any other district in the state. And so often times, when we have talked about what we're doing with equalization, we...I have looked at Sandhills Public to see if we are doing anything to help that district. You would think that that would be one district that would benefit from introducing income into the formula. But no, it doesn't. Why? Because I would, I would guess that you probably had large numbers of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, but you have a number of high, and they probably work for farm hands or ranch hands and then you have some high income individuals who impact it and actually you do not help that district. Let