

February 13, 1996 LB 349, 1050

should go into the particular proposition. I'm not sure what the answer is, it's fuzzy to all of us, I'm sure. But keep in mind that income tax comes into play twice, in very heavy ways, in the particular monies that we're now giving to state aid or through state aid already. The other situation that doesn't get properly addressed, I think, in the senators' bill is the situation of the absentee ownership of property, there income is completely separated. I mean the person having the income may be in one school district and the property in another. How would this work out in the senators' bill? It wouldn't work out fairly, I suggest to you. So I'm just adding those two things for your consideration in weighing whether we really need to do anything about income through this mechanism at this particular point in time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Senator Coordsen and members of the Legislature. I stand in support of the concept of using income as a larger part of the formula. I do this because I feel that there is some inequity with the present formula. And I have a couple questions I'd like Senator Withem to answer, if he is available.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Withem, are you on the floor?

SENATOR STUHR: Since he is actually one of the cointroducers and sponsors of 1050, I thought maybe he could give me a little bit of background. Senator Bohlke, are you here?

SENATOR COORDSEN: I don't see Senator Withem on the floor, Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. Well, I'll just make a few remarks, and I think some of the remarks in support of the concept have been well stated. It always comes back a little bit to the fairness issue. I have an example here where I do not see any tax equity when some taxpayers are spending 25 percent of their adjusted gross income in school property taxes, while other taxpayers are spending less than 2 percent of their income in support of the schools. Please do not get me wrong, I am for equality, providing equal opportunity for students. But I think that there is some way that we could make some adjustment in the formula. They say we are...we have included income. Yes, it is