

February 13, 1996 LB 349

and should not be tolerated in opposition to a bill, it proves nothing. This bill makes a lot of sense. We're talking about resources to be referred to in the allocation of tax funds for children, I think we have to recognize that we have a fundamentally flawed system and this is a step in the right direction, and I strongly support LB 349.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Dierks. Is Senator Dierks here? Okay, Senator Dierks is not here. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam (sic) Chairman. I... Did I say "Madam"? I'm sorry, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: That's close enough.

SENATOR BROMM: That was a slip of the tongue. (Laugh.) You... I'll speak with you later about that. Colleagues, I was trying to listen to Senator Matzke's argument with one ear and having a discussion with my mouth, and that's difficult to do. But from what I heard I think that I very much agree with his argument. We cannot take specific examples or districts and look at that and create a scenario to cause us to vote against this bill. This bill very simply says that income should be considered as a factor when we decide how much each district should be entitled to in terms of aid, equalization aid. We will consider income, we will consider income as a measure of wealth. Just as the financial aid forms do, when they consider eligibility for student assistance or financial aids, or just as we consider who's eligible for loans, for low income loans and other types of assistance in society, we will look at income in the district as being one of the factors to consider as to whether or not that district is entitled to equalization aid and how much aid they should be entitled to. And I think if we can keep that in mind as the basic principle here, it's pretty hard to argue with that. And I would suggest that anyone who feels that property tax has become too much of a burden in the support of our schools, and that it's not necessary in the proportion that it should be in supporting our schools, should support advancing this bill to Select File. We need to keep this bill alive, we need to advance the bill, keep the measure on the floor as one of the factors that we look at in solving what the public has been telling us over and over is an inequitable property tax system. And there are going to be many other bills