

February 14, 1996 LB 1050

gives back to the districts. And, and I just...you don't have to give a comprehensive answer, but I have always wondered why this isn't the case and there's discussion in the papers and with people about this. Why can't we take all that money, divide it by the number of students we have, and then give that to each student to take back to what ever...since we have an enrollment option program in the state of Nebraska, give them that money to take back to what ever school that they decide to, and not to get anybody uncomfortable here, I'm certainly not talking about vouchers or private school program, but just to take that back to the public school of their choice. Why can't we just do it in this fashion? I just...and then allow some kind of a lid or a levy on how much property tax that those groups can...can take from their, their areas, and even make that, if you will, you know, as per pupil on how much that total has to be instead of this formula that seems to every year we have to come back and adjust it for something and you give some people money for all day kindergartens and some people don't, and, you know, and all these things happening and half the floor, at least half the floor has to admit, if not publicly, in private, that they really don't have a clue how this is all being done. Why can't we simplify this and allow that to be just given to each student and follow that student around. I guess that's something I've never understood and I hate to take up too much time this morning on that, but I would like an answer to that question from Senator Bohlke and Senator Withem. Thank you.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Should I take the first part or am I Senator Bohlke/Senator Withem?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Witek, when I started out the discussion of 1050, first of all on the floor of the Legislature, when each committee chair spoke to the Legislature, and when I did today I talked about the fact that the necessity of having equity under the finance formula, and by...and the importance of doing that. States who have not done that, who have, who previously did what would be like foundation aid, that is "disequalizing" to a number of school districts if they don't have the resources for their students to take back. That's why a number of states have ended up in court saying you must have a finance formula that tries to bring equity into your system so