

February 14, 1996 LB 1050

to keeping of the bargain is, quite frankly, objectionable. It is not welfare! It is a keeping of the bargain, and not much of a bargain at that if you're talking about \$14 million, roughly, across 357 schools in the state of Nebraska. We should have welfare problems that don't cost us more than that, if that's welfare. That is not welfare, it's a keeping of the bargain. And, quite frankly, if the schools had known what they were getting out of 1059 and the debates that would go on in the Legislature and the people that voted for it then, I don't know if they would vote for it now.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Now the other factor that I think you need to keep in mind is if \$13.7 million is all that was distributed to nonequalization districts for '93-94, total state aid now to all districts is about \$414 million. You can do the math and you can figure out whether this rebate is really something that is insidious, and dangerous, and harmful, and destroying equalization. It is not destroying equalization. Fourteen million dollars out of about \$414 million and, Senator Bohlke, I know that those numbers don't match because they're different years. I know those numbers do not match on the current basis, I'll acknowledge that. But it is not very much, it is not...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...destroying equalization, it is affecting equalization, but it is not destroying it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Pirsch announces the following guests are visiting the Legislature, Senator Tom Fitzgerald is here from Omaha, with Sarah Sturm, Laura Sturm, and Katie Sturm. They are Senator Fitzgerald's granddaughters. They are sitting under the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Senator Will and Senator Schimek announce that there are six students from Youth Services, in Lincoln, here. They are also in the south balcony. Will you also stand and be recognized. And Senator Wesely announces that there are 25 ninth graders here from Dawes Middle School in Lincoln. (Introduced their sponsors.) They are also sitting in the south balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Wickersham, your light is next.