

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

or something that our Legislature does, then we are going toward that base core instructional property tax levy, I believe. And equalization then will represent equalizing that cost per student across the state for instructional purposes. And if individual school districts then wish to have extraordinarily expensive types of buildings, or extraordinarily expensive buses, or things like that, then that would be the burden to bear locally. And, with that, I think I've said all I need to say this morning. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the body, I would yield my first minute to Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, I rise in support of the Wickersham amendment. Actually, when we were determining the 83 million we had not looked at the amount of time that Senator Wickersham was saying that took two years to fully implement it, and it would have then been at the 101 million. Philosophically that sure squares up with what we were trying to do, and I think he has a point, and I support the Wickersham amendment. Thank you, Senator Brown.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you. Yesterday we heard some comments about some school districts that I care a great deal about. And I would like to take a little time to clarify some of the remarks that were made. There were some remarks about OPS, and I just have to say that OPS is the best urban school district, probably, in the nation. It educates 15 percent of our state students, and their per pupil cost is \$9 over the state average, only \$9. OPS's state aid per pupil is near the state aid per pupil average, and the median household income is also at the state average. But OPS's valuation per student is \$30,000 less than the state average, and the school districts educates 52...52 percent of the students in OPS qualify for free or reduced lunch. If you need an argument about why we need to be concerned about equalization, I think that there are some statistics in there that say that we do need to be worried about adding money to equalization, and that OPS is not sucking up the