

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

and I guess it's your hope that those school districts don't eat up the difference by increasing salaries or increasing structures or facilities. That has happened in other districts as the enactment of 1059 showed. And probably those people won't remember too much or see too much of that money coming back. But those people that have their property taxes raised by this piece of legislation will be looking to the Legislature as the responsible party. They'll be the same people that will go out there and work for, sign those petitions to cap, either do away with property taxes or severely limit the state's ability to control what the property tax policies should be of this state by mandating upon the state Legislature additional responsibilities as well as increasing the amount of state aid that will have to be contributed to fund our schools. And that's, I guess that's my concern, in the broad philosophical sense because that's what the proponents of this bill have been talking about, fairness. Well, fairness is a nice issue, I guess, if your district's making more money. You can always argue that. But I think we have a higher responsibility this session, and that is to deal with the property tax issue and saying we are solving property taxes for a large number of Nebraska citizens by raising those taxes, raising those property taxes, cutting their state aid, is not the kind of solution that I think that we are doing ourselves any service today or this session. So I want you to keep that in mind when we're talking about property taxes this session. And keep in mind that this bill probably will be what we will be labeled with for our property tax solution. And then take a look and see how it does impact your district. It still an amazement to me, and I...this is meant not as a criticism in any way towards Senator Bohlke, because I think she does an outstanding job as Chairman of the Education Committee and in handling this bill. But it's an amazement to me that we can't get a state agency to get to us figures...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ABBODD: ...that we need in determining how this will impact our constituency. I guess I've heard these arguments before. I heard them during 1059. I wasn't really all that directly involved in that piece of legislation. But, you know, it was the same argument back then. The Department of Education can't handle it. Well, it's been a number of years and I'm sure we have better computers, but they still have the same problem.