

February 20, 1996 LB 1050

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1050, a bill originally introduced by the Education Committee. (Read title.) The bill has been discussed. The committee amendments have been discussed on several occasions, Mr. President. The committee amendments were initially divided. I now have pending the last component of the committee amendment. Senator, I have what I am calling FA444, which is the last piece of the committee amendments. (See page 822 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, as you recall, last Thursday, as we were on 1050, we addressed the issues of income tax rebate and option payments, and we had moved on to what is the last section, and what, on last Thursday's debate, there were a couple of things that I wanted to come back and revisit. Certainly, a number of you have asked for a printout, and I've discussed with you before why there is somewhat of a delay, but, certainly, last Thursday, Senator Abboud was asking and saying the importance of it. What occurred to me is that last Thursday, we made two changes to LB 1050; one putting...changing the income tax rebate, and also the option payment. If the Department of Ed had started doing their run, they would now have to start all over again because we have changed the formula. And so, certainly, that is not something that we wish to have them do, and so I think it is also, I said, between General File and Select File, they...I know that they would do their best to get that information to you. But I certainly think it makes some sense to know what changes that we are approving and might affect the numbers that they would be working on. Also, one other point, we have not talked about the fact that we do have a Nebraska School Finance Review Committee, and that committee has members on it from across the state representing different size school districts. Each year they look at the school finance formula and make recommendations, and they continue to affirm the support of financing school districts through equalized funding mechanisms and, in fact, I think all of you have a handout showing some of the statements that they have made about income tax rebate, and that it may be necessary to put a limit on how much rebate that we should have, and that through equalized funding mechanisms assures equitable