

has taken place so far that I think I'd like to put, at least, in some perspective. There's a tad bit, to use one of Senator Wickersham's phrases that I've always liked, there are a few red herrings being thrown out right now. All of a sudden now we're getting into a discussion of alternative education. The committee did not change what the Legislature, whether you supported it or not, decided to do a year ago. We left that policy alone because what the school districts were saying is, look, you are going to force this on us this year coming up and we don't even have rules and regs yet. For whatever reasons, the department has been very slow in doing so. The committee, basically, said, look, we are not going to go in and change the alternative education formula because that's not the intent of what we're trying to do in 1050, that's another policy question, but we are going to shift back that date so that all of us and the school districts will look at the rules and regs, when they do come out, and we will all be able to say we like that or we don't like that. And if we don't like what's going on, I'm sure there will be a bill that would...that would try to repeal that section, and it may be very legitimate at that time. If we're talking about funding alternative ed, we're way too soon. If anybody would want to put dollars in for funding alternative ed now, you would have no idea what you're going to fund because you don't know what the rules and regs are going to be. So it would be foolhardy for us to put dollars in there now when we don't even know how much, how little, or what we would need to fund. So the debate is simply that, a discussion on points that are on another issue for another time next session. Now if you want to...if you try to slow this process down by debating that, that's every senator's right, but it doesn't apply to 1050. A couple of other arguments that have been...we are now back to discussing the income tax. I don't think the senators really have thought carefully the income tax portion out. Remember, if we would have done Senator Robak's bill, LB 349, and the majority of the Legislature said, no, we're not, if we were going to do that, let's say my district, the railroad was adding on, our incomes increased, income is a factor, and they have a better ability to pay so their state aid would drop. The North Platte School District still cannot access that income. Just because they have ability to pay doesn't mean the school district will get any of that. They are going to have to raise their levy and the people are going to have to support that. Only then will those that have the ability to pay, we'd be able to tap. But you are also going to tap more those that don't