

February 23, 1996 LB 646, 1248

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...that it will more than likely just affect Richardson County at this time. But we can't continue to do this. We can't continue to do this in all areas of government. And I see no slowing down or no attempts to prioritize or no attempts to stop trying to pay for everything on this floor. And here's just one more instance where just last year you created a bureaucracy that you'll have to pay for on into the future until some other Legislature that's up against the wall actually decides not to spend the money, but because the people on this floor don't want to take the heat of making those tough decisions because I realize it is easier to try to please everybody. But the people that you are not pleasing with continuing to fund all the different approaches...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WITEK: ...is the taxpayer. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Before the next speaker, the Legislature has some guests. Marilyn Lindner, from Grand Island, is the guest of Senator Klein here today. She's his sister, and she's sitting under the south balcony. Would you stand up so we would welcome you. Also in the north balcony, Senator Maurstad has as his guests today forty fourth graders from Paddock Lane Elementary School in Beatrice and their sponsors. Would you all please stand and let the Legislature welcome you. Thank you for being here today. Senator Beutler, on the Vrtiska amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature. I believe I'm going to support this bill, even though I'm going to be listening to suggestions that people have to improve it. Conceptually it is a difficult bill. Last year when LB 646, the public defender bill, was up I had some misgivings with that. And I had some misgivings because I thought that the way it was originally structured it would systematically favor certain kinds of political subdivisions over others, and that those kinds that were being favored may well be the most inefficient local political subdivision structures and therefore we would be encouraging systematically those inefficiencies. But as I got to reflect upon it, it seemed to me that a couple of things were clear. One thing is that we do have to continue to press for