

decision. Senator Jones made some reference to, if an individual's renew...this amendment would have the effect if an individual has renewed a lease that they would be free then and not have to worry about it. Well, if they renewed a lease and that's a binding document, that's a contract I don't think we can alter anyway and that renewed lease is probably there and in place regardless of which side of this bill goes. What I haven't heard is a good argument as to why we ought not to step back one step and say, if we're going to adopt a policy of selling land, we ought not to go totally towards selling all of it but we ought to take a step back and say let's have the policy of selling half of it and then we'll be able to take a look and see whether that's working or not. Keep in mind, this is 335 million dollars of property that was set aside permanently for the education of our young people. It's not about whether a state agency's operating properly. It's not about whether or not it's a pain to have education lands in your county. It's not about...it's not about how that money's distributed. It's not about that. It's about whether we ought to convert from land which has served the state fairly well over to new investments. I'm ready to do that but not all of it. I would urge...continue to urge you to support this amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Dierks, Schrock, Elmer, Maurstad, Wesely, Bohlke, Bromm, and Cudaback. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Withem, couple of questions if I might.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Withem, will you yield?

SPEAKER WITHEM: I certainly will.

SENATOR VRTISKA: First of all you talk about the selling of half of the land and I guess...and I don't know if you've got these all worked out, but is there some way you're going to determine which land will be sold as opposed to which wouldn't be?

SPEAKER WITHEM: The modification that I've had, Senator, from my original amendment was, my original amendment said half of the land, literally half of it. Senator Schrock pointed out to me that that may not equate to half of the value. So the