

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Of course, I'll accept it. I mean that was...even if it was five seconds I would have taken it. A couple points and I, Senator Janssen, I thank you very much. A couple of points that I want to raise, when Senator Abboud...and I understand, his point of view is a logical one. I do not disagree with his point of view. I disagree with his analysis. When you talk about comparing per pupil costs among districts and trying to show a clear comparison that those are the same...all the factors are the same, therefore, you can see who's spending money on their kids and who's not, you can't make that assumption. It would be the same assumption that if you looked at gross domestic product, which is what we use now. We used to use the gross national product, and all countries, see, divide up their wealth and they divide it among the number of people and that, in theory, is the gross domestic product, and in theory that's how wealthy a country is compared to other countries. And then what you do is you say if all the wealth were equally divided this is how much each person would be worth in the United States or in the Belgian or in Zambia or wherever. So, obviously, that...the people in Nebraska don't have the percentage of the national income, but it's used to compare even though everyone understands that the comparisons are invalid because there's different situations in every country. The same analysis has to be used when anyone is just looking at the cost per pupil. There are so many variations in why school districts have different costs or different spending levels that you can't...you can use it as a measure but you can't use it as an absolute comparison. So we need to keep that in mind. The second thing, if I have enough time on Senator Janssen's remaining time, is please remember what we're doing on equalization. When we did 1059 and the people supported the keeping of 1059, the people gave a clear message. They believed that equalization to make schools more equitable for all students so that every child in Nebraska had an equal opportunity for education, not that they'd all have the same dollars but at least they'd have the...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ..opportunity of that, the people said overwhelmingly we agree. It was not repealed. The public said we agree. And if you do...if this body does LB 1141 and LB 299, think of what that will do. That will take away resources from