

opposition to this amendment in that you're being told, I believe, and I...people can correct me if I'm wrong, that when 1059 was adopted that the people of the state of Nebraska had some overreaching equalization objective in mind. Well, I was a voter living in Harrison at that time and I can tell you that that wasn't my particular analysis and I'm not going to try to speak for any other voters. What I understood from 1059 was that it provided additional resources to schools and that it did change the way the old school formula worked, but I understood that it was designed to provide new resources to school districts and that it would begin to meet some of the educational needs in the state of Nebraska. One of the resources that I understood that 1059 would provide was the income tax rebate and, even though the school districts that I paid taxes to would lose what was characterized as the old foundation aid, that we would receive back the income tax rebate so we would have something, even if we did not receive equalization aid. And I...and no one knew whether we were going to receive equalization aid, but we knew we would receive an income tax rebate, so something, something would come from the state that we paid in. We would get something back. Well, on General File we changed that so it's less. And we changed it so it was less in two different ways: one, we capped it; and, one, we adopted an amendment to take the option payment out of what was left of the income tax rebate. I disagree with that second decision. That's the reason that the amendment is being offered now. If Senator Bohlke wants to argue, I should have offered that amendment on General File, perhaps. I made the judgment that it was better to wait till Select File and argue that issue. Maybe that was wrong. The other concern that I have, I've heard from Senator Bohlke that this is a 16.9 million dollar issue and I disagree with that position. It is not, because the bulk of the 16.9 million...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ..dollars that will go to fund option goes to equalization schools. It goes to equalization schools. It doesn't cost equalization schools a dime. What it does cost is the other schools and it costs them about 1.9 million dollars, maybe fudge a couple hundred thousand dollars on one side or the other. I don't know. We don't have a printout. But the information that you have in front of you is consistent with the distributions that we've seen before of the income tax rebate,