

Cambridge and Bertrand are about the same size schools. Cambridge will get \$1 million worth of state aid out of 1050, Bertrand will be \$77,000 of state aid; they're about the same size. The problem is Bertrand has twice as much value in property. But what happens? Bertrand has a rather modest school facility, they don't have a new gymnasium. But it seems like schools that get equalization money all of a sudden feel like they're rich, so what do they do? They build new facilities, they build new gymnasiums. Some of you may or may not argue that Blue Hill, which is in my district, should consolidate. They seem to win under the state aid formula. They failed, by two votes, of passing a new bond issue, when some may argue they should be consolidating. Well, I'll get myself in trouble here if I keep talking about the schools in my district because I think consolidation should be a local choice. But it just seems like we aren't accomplishing what we should accomplish. You take, for example, an irrigated quarter of land, has probably more taxes on it than a new home here out at the Firethorn country club. I don't know where the fairness of this is. But the problem is when you determine agricultural land as wealth, then rural Nebraska is going to lose. And I know there's some winners out here, but if you'd live in an area where there's a lot of irrigated land, you lose. And Senator McKenzie can tell you a lot of things can happen. You can have wind storms, you can have hail storms, you can have early frost, it doesn't necessarily equate to income and ability to pay taxes. So I support Senator Bromm's amendment, it makes sense. One of the things I hear from the school superintendents is, we were promised the 20 percent and now they're taking that away. Well, I guess it's all right to give Cambridge \$1 million and give Bertrand \$77,000. So Bertrand's budget, 4 percent of it will be paid for by state aid. I think we're going too far, and that's the reason I will be voting for the Bromm amendment. If it does not pass, I cannot support the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I want to respond to a few of the comments. And again, I appreciate the historical perspective that Senator Withem gave us on the development of 1059, and the two years in the crafting, and they passed it finally in 1990, with a short session, and then the other historical items that he mentioned. And I understand that. And he's very right in all of that. But we have some factors now