

March 21, 1996

LB 299, 1114  
LR 292

they'll understand the rationale behind it. So I fully intend that the amendment will not pass, in fact in many...in actual I'm urging the defeat of the amendment. I probably still will have to vote green because I don't think...I have a policy you don't want to...number one, the policy is I don't think you should introduce something you're not willing to support; and two, I still don't want to equal the Vrtiska record of even...no one, even himself, vote...not voting for an amendment. Please remember if you can, I'm going to jump from this and make a jump to 1114 and 299. But please remember we're talking about dollars that are to be reimbursed to political subdivisions, in this case it would be from the taxation of the motor vehicles and the dollars going to school districts, cities, villages, and counties. And I know the body's not really listening, but at least somewhere for the record people going back will say, gee, he did make that clear, too bad no one understood that. But if you just start thinking a little bit...Madam President, Mr. Speaker, could I have a gavel, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: (Gavel.) Yes. Members, could you please give some attention to the speaker, at least not make noise to the level where we can't hear him.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, I don't care if they listen, I guess, but I would at least like to hear myself for the sheer enjoyment of me figuring out what it is that I'm saying. If you go to LB 1114 and LB 299, what you're going to find is in simplistic measures for me all of the rationale that we had for 1059 is gone, it's gone, it goes. The rationale for 1059 school finance was we're going to bring those that needed economic help so their children would have an equal opportunity for education. Those inequities that are still present that we're working gradually and drawing those lines so they're not so far apart will all of a sudden stay the same and they will begin growing apart again, because, without going into great detail at this time, equalization will only be the following, equalization will only be given to school districts that qualify for equalization, of which most, at some point, will. And the only thing they can do with those dollars is to replace current spending and lower their levy, that's it. That's all they'll be able to do because we'll have the spending caps on the current bills, and so where now we're giving state aid to districts so they can come up on their spending to be more competitive and have their children have the equal opportunity, if they so choose, they will not be