

March 21, 1996

LB 1176
LR 292

able to do that forever, forever they will not be able to do that with these bills. This amendment very...indirectly plays into that because this amendment will say the language that the committee has that's stricken will basically say that we, the Legislature, can set up a new way of taxation. That may be next year a clunker tax. If you like the clunker tax or don't like the clunker tax, I don't care, but it could be something like that, it may be something else. Those dollars, if you look at 1176, many of those dollars would go into equalization. You cannot go on the assumption that when you put more dollars in equalization...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that means schools districts will be better off that need it because the whole concept of 1059 will not apply anymore. All it means is you're going to be putting more money into equalization so that districts can use the dollars to lower their ask in the levy, but they can't spend any of the dollars to bring them up to the levels of the wealthier school districts. So the point of all of this is that these types of things are going to play into all of the other measures. What my amendment would do, that I again hope that you vote against to a nature or degree is by the committee's language we will set what percentage will go back to the political subdivisions. But again reminding you it won't make any difference on their spending, it only will make a difference on the levy. It will...any monies that we collect will not help them in replacing lost services, it will not, it cannot under the law.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: But what it does do is allow us to do different types of taxation to lower the levy, but don't fool yourself by thinking that we're going to be giving more money so they can grow. That's the point I wanted to make sure people understood. And again, I would urge the amendment not be adopted.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Would like to pause and recognize some guests in the balcony. I know every year we look forward to students from the very finest elementary school in the state of Nebraska coming down here, Tara Heights