

without some assistance from the Revenue Committee, that I'm able to analyze exactly how much need there is in the area of each political subdivision. It seems to me, from the mechanisms that have been put in place in the package, that the question of replacement revenues has been handled very unevenly, that there is some provision for, in the case of counties not replacement revenues necessarily, but a huge deduction in their expenses from the point of view of getting rid of their poverty programs, making available to them a county option tax. In the case of cities there are some alternatives. They're helping the cities with the equalization plan. I'm not sure to what extent that replaces some of their revenues. I think what I'm trying to do for the schools is probably also applicable perhaps to a lesser extent to both the counties and the municipalities also, and that we ought to look closer at that question. But again I have not heard anyone, on the Revenue Committee or otherwise, answer the question of what assistance is there here to the schools in any measure for those replacement revenues as there is for the counties and the municipalities.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: You know, in a broader context, not getting into the number or the amount of relief, would you agree that if a safety net is appropriate for the schools, that a safety net would be appropriate for the others that this...that 1114 will affect?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think so.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yeah, thank you. A little bit later...Senator Vrtiska also has an amendment filed that deals with this in another way that would provide a more broad-based range of assistance in that section...he would modify Section 70...or 55 by indicating if the Legislature has enacted legislation which is in effect...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...July 1, 1998, to provide state aid or other funding mechanisms to political subdivisions to enable such political subdivisions to raise revenue at a level equal to at least 90 percent of the revenue realized in fiscal year 1997-98. So he's addressing it from a little broader perspective than what Senator Beutler is in providing a safety net of at least 90 percent to all the political subdivisions. I