

as has been stated on the floor, if they're supportive of the good schools that we have, why are we afraid of this? Why wouldn't the people support alternative revenues that at least replace 60 percent of what's being cut? In what way is that radical or irrational? Surely all of you would agree, philosophically, as you sit there that 60 percent of a 30 percent cut in budget ought to be replaced. We've watched all of our school districts, we've listened to all of our school districts, I don't think...I've never heard of anybody come in talking to me, or quietly talking to me on the side of the Legislature, saying, gee, my school district could cut 30 percent of their budget, they're so inefficient.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I have, like several others on the floor, not spoken on this issue today because I'm really torn about this issue and because I've been trying to learn as much as I can about all of the provisions and how people perceive they will affect our different governmental subdivisions. One of the reasons I'm worried is because some figures handed out earlier today said that levies will go down about 24 percent in my locality. And I know that 65 percent of our school budgets, for instance, go to teacher salaries. And there does not...there is not a lot of flexibility in the budget, certainly not for huge decreases. Now we don't know what's going to happen with school aid and how that's going to affect our levies, but it may not happen for a while, if there are increases. We don't really know what income tax receipts are going to be four or five years from now, those could be down and those could affect the amount of monies available, etcetera. So I was discussing with Senator Kristensen about how an individual school district, if it had the public discussion and the people of that community wanted to take a vote on whether they wanted to be under this particular levy limitation, what the scenario would be for doing that, and if it would be possible. And I guess I'd like to ask him now to explain these levy limits go into effect beginning July 1, 1998, for the '98-99 fiscal year. Would it be possible for my school district or any other school district in this state to take a