

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Bernard-Stevens announces that the following guest is visiting the Legislature. Royce Norman is here from North Platte. He's under the south balcony. Will you stand to be recognized, please. And Senator Robak announces the following guests are visiting the Legislature: there are 35 participants from Leadership Columbus here from Columbus, Nebraska. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand to be recognized, please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I'd like to have a little more detail on Senator Abboud's, but first I'm going to do a little philosophic. I wanted to call your attention to the handout that Senator Abboud had, because Elmwood-Murdock is also in that list of Redbook honorees. But they are also very frustrated, and I guess I'm going to ask Senator Bohlke some general philosophical questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I had a visit yesterday from several of the Elmwood School Board and they are very frustrated and they're in much the same boat as Ralston. I don't know so much about the teachers' salary, but I do know about their nonequalization now. Their state aid has been declining. They are one of the top schools in the country, in this case as defined by Redbook, and they brought to my attention that they feel they are getting severely chastised, so to speak, in terms of financial aid because they have a good school, they're doing what they're trying to do and still the state says, too bad, you're taking money away, you're going to have to do it. And in contrast a little bit to what apparently is at Ralston. the school...the levy limit, they have a high valuation per student at Elmwood-Murdock but the levy limit is...their levy is quite a bit higher than Ralston. So they are struggling to maintain a good school, keep a high quality educational program and see state aid taken away. My question, Senator Bohlke, is, is there a maintenance at the state level? I know the answer to this, but of SAT scores or ACT scores by schools, are those averages kept? Is there a measurement of...I don't know if it's outcome-based, is there any effort on that part?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Is there...are you saying is there a record of