

going to talk about public schools, the spending cuts...the spending caps, in my interpretation, will mean that school districts that under 1059 we are trying to give state aid so that they can have an equal opportunity for their children to be educated as those that are under a wealthier district, and I'm not talking wealth in regard necessarily to money people have but property wealth, most of the body was not here during the discussion of 1059. Senator Wickersham, for example, made the comment the other day that he was not here. He was in Harrison at the time, not in the Legislature, but it was his understanding that the people in his area voted more for 1059 because of the 20 percent income tax rebate would go back to their school district. That was one of the things that was most overpowering and so then he argued quite well, I might add, that that's why we need to continue the 20 percent promise on the rebate. And Senator Abboud talked about that same thing except he wanted to go 25 percent of the percent of income tax rebate. When I was here on the 1059, it may have been just me but I don't believe so, I probably traveled throughout the state as much as anyone speaking to any group that was willing to listen, whether it be a Lion's Club, Rotary Club, you name it, a church group, a women's group, I went there. I flew in the little Comanche to places such as Valentine and up to Chadron and out to Scottsbluff, went to Ogallala, certainly in North Platte. I went to Broken Bow. I went...St. Paul, I was even there, was in Omaha, spoke in Lincoln, I went everywhere at my own expense with this, neither here nor there. And I can tell you that the 1059 debate really had little to do with the rebate even though those that are here now in their recollection of what they remember, they may feel that that was a major thing. And that's the way of the political process. Those that make a fight and give blood on an issue eventually will be gone and it will be filled with people who were not there, did not spill any blood on the issue, and they will say at some point, gee, I wonder why they did that and they will make the changes to undo what they view as an unfair policy and do something different. That's the nature of government. But at the time, the major concern of 1059 and school finance, which goes right back to where we are on this, these issues of property tax and Senator Cudaback's bill was not income tax rebate. It was really twofold.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The first concept on the 1059 was (a)