

that did not give a laundry list or a priority list of items to be cut or not cut but an amendment that would say academics, under no circumstances, shall be the first item cut?

SENATOR WARNER: At this point, no, I would not, but that's not because academics are not important.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I couldn't understand you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: No, I would not, but that's not based on academics being unimportant. I just believe that the flexibility ought to be there.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Warner believes in flexibility. So if we had a school that wanted to produce rocket scientists, then academics would not be cut first, and they should have the flexibility to ensure that. If we had a school system that wanted to produce mule skinners, then they should have the flexibility to cut everything in academics so they can buy some mules and some whips and teach these people how to be mule skinners. It seems to me that since the constitution has made education an issue of statewide concern, and when we discuss education we talk about it from the standpoint of what is to be done for the students, we ought to be able to reach some kind of consensus in the Legislature as to what we think is important in an educational setting.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Is there any further discussion of the Lindsay amendment? Seeing none, Senator Lindsay to close.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, members. This amendment... Let me back up. The Brown amendment that was adopted this morning I think we need to take another look at. Is that hierarchy, of where cuts should take place, the policy that this Legislature wants? Do you want to go back to your districts and tell people, cut football, cut band, cut all those things, and then move on to cut your transportation, and then move to your buildings, cut down the building maintenance, and then cut academics, but never touch administration? The amendment was completely silent on administration by agreement of the NSEA and NASB. It was completely silent on