

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Dierks, will you respond to a question?

SENATOR DIERKS: Certainly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Dierks, are there families who have leased these school lands, and in some cases, people who have leased these lands have been on them for many, many, many years?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, there are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if this land would be sold in the way we are envisioning with this bill, that land could be sold out from under those people because they don't have the wherewithal to purchase it. Is that true?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, that's possible.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think there are people right now who might be eyeing this land who want to purchase it?

SENATOR DIERKS: I am sure there are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think that if this land would be sold that it would be sold on an equitable basis, meaning that somehow the Legislature will come back and make sure that there is not just a big land grab by maybe some land barons or some individuals who will have clout with the Legislature, and we will try to fashion the...maybe like a lottery of some kind, so everybody has a fair shot at it, or will it go probably to those who've got the most money and the most clout?

SENATOR DIERKS: I would imagine. Senator Chambers, it would be offered at a public auction.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And who does that mean would be able to get it?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I suppose those with the most money and the most clout.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, I am not going to tell the story, but there was a story in the New Testament about Lazarus and the rich man. Now if Lazarus and the rich man are at this land