

has been no discussion, at least this time around, on the effect of 299 and 1114 on quality education. The other thing I wanted to talk about, and obviously I am rising to oppose 299, is that when you combine this with 1114, the inequities that is going to be out there among different school districts. We argue about inequities of funding school districts today, we are simply going to transfer those inequalities and inequities to other areas. An example would be those school districts that have a levy versus those that have a very low levy because they have high property value. Some of them will be affected big time; others will be not affected at all.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: In fact, some will be even able to grow. So consequently there are going to be those school districts that are going to have great pain and those people will, in those areas, have property tax relief. But I think it needs to be understood that there are some parallels to 1059, school finance and this particular...these issues as they are combined. LB 1059 in fact lowered the property taxes statewide but it simply lowered it to a new threshold and they began inching their way upward again. The same is going to happen with this. Statewide we will have a lowering of the thresholds, but they will continue to inch upward again. And until we decide that we don't want to fund all the things that we do at state government with the million and a half we have, when we try to have state colleges throughout the state, where we try to have community colleges throughout the state, when we try to have a university at Omaha and at Lincoln and at Kearney and so on, as we try to fund all of those with a million and a half tax...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...people on a tax base, we will find that it can't be done. I'll talk about that a little bit later.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, something that has alluded our discussion and I have heard it in small groups is why aren't we cutting state government? And I