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necessary to get this to the floor so fast? As you know, we waited an extra week because we do not want any of you to feel that you've been rushed. But schools must determine their staffing needs and, by law, if they're going to fire any teachers, it must be done by April 15th. That translates into us needing to recertify no later than April 1st. That still gives schools only two weeks and, in order to get this to the Governor for his signature, we will need an emergency clause. And because the Appropriations Committee does not bring their budget to the floor until mid to late April, we will have to suspend the rules to consider Final Reading of LB 149 prior to passage of the budget. The Department of Education has begun to recalculate aid and will do their best to produce a printout by mid-March. I do not plan to debate this bill again on Select File until all senators have had a chance to see the printouts and ask questions. This time line can only be met if there is significant amount of cooperation between the Governor, the Department of Education, and the Legislature. The Education Committee is dedicated to this effort. Time is of the essence. I recognize this gives education a priority in the budget and that we will be asked to make some difficult choices with regard to the budget and reducing spending. I believe education should have that priority. Much like budget setting that we may...that may take place in any individual home, when times are lean we first direct resources to the needs of our children. We don't like surprises and often, when unintended consequences arise, one is tempted to point a finger at those they wish to blame. As usual, that doesn't work because, as we know, that when we point one finger, we have a number pointing right back at us. The number of senators and staff members who worked on LB 1114, 299, 713, 806, 271, and 989 could not anticipate the intricacies of their symbiotic relationships. How about the Department of Education? You have heard me speak in the past of how we put so much emphasis on getting printouts that there is little time for a working analysis of legislation and the impact it may have on the school finance "reformula"...formula. Remember, during 806 there were 52 requests from this body for printouts. Additionally, some schools hire consultants to specifically analyze the impact of 806. No one foresaw the problems and the blame can be easily spread around among a large number of us. But, by and large, it is our mess, not the mess of children sitting in our classrooms. I hope to demonstrate to you that if