

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 3, 1999 LB 149

the Governor is going to put his property tax. And so they are not pitted one against the other. It just is when you do that, what's the outcome for schools? And the Governor and I had, I think, a very good discussion in agreeing that we both want predictability and in agreeing that there will be a lot of things happening, especially with the automobile tax, when we get the numbers in mid-March. And I reassured the Governor, and I think he felt very good about our conversation, that when we do get to Select File and we have those numbers, I don't have any difficulty of even having a day of discussion and debate and then pulling it off the agenda and then bringing it back up after a couple of days, three days, whatever your comfort level may be. The Department of Education has said at that time they will have people over here and will do an analysis and walk through it with you. And I see some people looking a little disgruntled but, remember, we will be using accurate data, we won't be using estimates, and so that will be a big difference in the numbers that we see. We...what I'm trying to say to you is that we will do all that we can. I do not think that we are in any pitted debate over one initiative against the other. It's just looking at the numbers, when we get them in, and at that time, I think today may be more on philosophy, and I do think in mid-March we will have the numbers and we will have a discussion, but I do not see any reason to pit 149 against what the Governor has proposed and actually when we see those numbers the debate may be on how you fill the gap. You have a gap of ten cents under. With 149 currently, that potentially would be from state aid. We will see what that gap may be when we get the numbers. With the Governor's plan, if we have 149 in place, that gap is filled from property tax. And so that's...that's the difference, but they can go hand in glove. It's just up...it's up to us if we pass both proposals. So I did want to make that clear in people's minds. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Raikes.

**SENATOR RAIKES:** Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I know I'm going to be redundant, but I'll try to be redundant quickly. There, it seems to me, is concern about foreclosing policy options by adopting this bill. That is, if we adopt this bill we lock in the local effort rate and no