

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

February 3, 1999 LB 149

is, if I'm remembering it right, and some of the young lawyers can correct me, but what it basically says is if someone says something to you and they say it with the expectation that you will rely upon it, and then you go ahead and do it, you do rely upon it, and it turns out that you're damaged seriously by that reliance, then there are a number of situations where the court will hold you liable notwithstanding the fact you may have not had a written contract or an ordinary contract, as usually defined in the law, in any event. So what do we have here? We asked the school districts to follow a system, and that system involved reliance upon estimates. And they did follow that system. And as it turns out they're going to be seriously damaged, unless we make corrections, because they did follow a system that it turned out didn't work as well as we all would have liked. And so I think that's the matter, that's the matter. The thing that we should not be doing at this point is adding one more uncertainty to the matter, the uncertainty of our word. That should stay firm. That should be able to be relied upon, and it will be relied upon. At least we can say, if we pass this bill, that we corrected whatever you might want to consider it, our own mistake, the differential. Characterize it as you will, we need to correct it. And I think that in this particular instance at this particular time stability is more important than any legal nicety. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, it seems that, as one of the newer senators here, we're being asked to keep a promise that was before we were even here and able to make that promise. And I'm being approached by many people and they're saying just trust us on this. It appears that we have to give or that for the...before we can get the data we're going to have to wait at least three weeks. And I guess I'm willing to do that at this point, but I must say that I do have many of the same concerns that Senator Redfield and Senator Brown has on this matter. In particular, one of the problems that I'm having in trying to sort through my mind is the statement that 149 is consistent with the Governor's proposal. And I guess I'd be willing to listen to more on that. But at this point I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Brown.