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SENATOR BOHLKE: ...and begin to reassure...be reassured when they open their doors in the fall that the children coming in are going to enter into classrooms and have those, the curriculum, available to them that provides them with that quality education. I think this removes that predictability, stability, and for what...and, as far as I'm concerned, the commitment to being...to seeing and guaranteeing that property tax relief and quality schools remain in partnership. I believe that's been the road we've been on. I think this severs the partnership. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Chair recognizes Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, the first, and members of the body, the first thing I want to do is apologize briefly to you for leaving out an important piece of the amendment that I'm offering to you. That piece is a delayed effective date for the Kristensen amendment, and a delayed effective date, obviously then, for the levy, overlevy exception that I described to you. The amendment would delay both of those provisions until the fiscal years beginning in 2002-2003. Why is that provision in the amendment? I wish to protect the dime drop in school levies that is now scheduled to take effect for the year 2001. I don't want us running around here dithering, saying we don't have enough money when it comes time to drop the school levy and to provide further property tax relief for people across the state of Nebraska. If you look at the information that Senator Wehrbein gave you, you can see that we're probabl...we're going to be able to fund that unless we make some serious mistakes in the next couple of years, and I would say unless we made serious mistakes. Some people would say just unless we decide to spend money on something else. I want to keep our commitment to that dime drop and that's the reason that the amendment, in addition to providing for the levy exception described, delays the effective date until after the dime drop would have taken effect. Now, I believe that Senator Bohlke touched on an element of this discussion that maybe we do need to remind ourselves about, and why the amendment that I'm proposing to you is important. That is the way the school aid formula works. In a very calculated way, we define the needs of a school district and tell them that's the amount of money that they should spend