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to offer an educational opportunity in their school. We then balance their needs. It's an equation. We balance their needs with resources. What are the resources that they have available to them? The money that we provide through the state aid formula and then local property taxes. If, all of a sudden, we withdraw our support from that resource addition, then they have no place else to turn, unless they are willing to reduce expenditures in their school, which may impair educational opportunities. In fact, you'll already hear that the school finance formula is impairing educational opportunities, even at the levels we're funding it, when it acts in conjunction with the levy caps. What would be the effects if we don't keep our commitment? And, again, I will suggest to you that the only really appropriate policy decision to make this morning is to support my amendment, even though...amendment to the amendment, even though again I will tell you that I don't like it. That isn't the policy choice that I will ultimately vote for. But if we're...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...if we're going to be honest with ourselves, if we're going to be honest with our constituents, then we still need to adopt the amendment, because that's what we'll be voting for, if we adopt the Kristensen amendment is higher property taxes, may as well admit it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Chair recognizes Senator Beutler, followed by Vrtiska, Kristensen, Bromm, Janssen, Schellpeper, Coordsen, Suttle, and Wehrbein.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I think the debate has tended to get very dramatic already. I don't see the amendment, I don't see the whole picture here as being all one side or all the other. I think what we're trying to do, I think what Senator Kristensen is trying to do is to drive some middle course so that the Legislature retains its authority and its options in all situations. I'm going to depart here from where most of you would predict I might come down on this issue. I'm going to be supportive of the Kristensen amendment. And I would have been supportive of the Wickersham amendment, had it not, if I