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And it shows you, for the time period 1977-78, and then 1987-88, ten years later, and then ten years later, '97-98, over in the right-hand columns for each of those three time periods...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...it shows you the percentage of state General Funds that is used by that particular category. And you can see the K-12 education has gone up from 16 percent of our General Funds, in 1977, to 30 percent today, which is fine. I voted for all that. I support all that. But you can see also what's happened to some of the other funding and some of the pressures that would be created. Remember again, that higher education, the universities, the state college systems, the community colleges, those are over...about one-half of our state operations. So if they must bear all the brunt of the pressure, it creates an extraordinary problem. We haven't had to raise sales and income taxes to do what we've done with property taxes. You know we should all be very thankful...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that we've gotten this far and not had to do that yet. And I'd like to talk about that more in a few minutes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Janssen and Senator Bromm would like to announce the following guests are visiting the Legislature, 44 fourth graders from the North Bend Public Schools and their teachers (introduced teachers). In the north balcony, if you'd please rise, we'd like to welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Chair recognizes Senator Vrtiska on the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I, like I'm sure many others, looked at this proposition of LB 149 with a great deal of favor, because it looked like it would bring some stability into the local school systems that many of us have been talked about and asked about over the last couple of years. And it was a difficult thing, when I looked at this, to determine how I should, in fact, vote for this. But, you know, it again is somewhat bothersome to think that when it