

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

March 10, 1999 LB 149

reduction. It wasn't a year by year, we'll decide next year how we're going to do this, we'll decide two years from now how we're going to do it then. It was a system that had a deliberate plan of implementation and we're in the middle of that implementation plan right now. In order for that implementation to work properly, we have to keep faith with...with the system that we, ourselves, developed. We have to follow through with what we started. Will there be a crisis? There certainly will be some day. What are we doing this year? We certified state aid last December 1, folks. We certified it then. We've done it...we've redone it since then, and this is the proposal to redo it, and then we're going to say, if we adopt these amendments, we're going to say, well, we're just going to do it every year during the session when we figure out how much money we've got. That is a huge, huge step backwards. It brings stability and predictability to the system of school finance. If I don't accomplish anything else in the Legislature, nothing else, when I leave here if I can't have a little more stability in the school finance formula than when I got here, I have failed. I have failed, and I will...I will fight to the end of this session if we're going to inject the amount of instability that this brings to the formula. We're talking about a system of financing schools, not a...not a decision from week to week or month to month. We're talking about a system. If we come in here next year and we have a severe crisis or we have a crisis between now and next year, if that decision of the federal court results in us getting a judgment from low-level nuclear activities of \$80 million, that's a crisis, folks. We may be in special session. We may be doing things next session that we don't even predict that we will do. But that's the nature of the job. We can do that. We can do that. If the system we're setting up for some reason or other is not appropriate, is not possible, we, the 49 senators of Nebraska, have the ability to change that anytime until we adjourn. We have that power. We have that flexibility. But to put an amendment into the school finance formula that injects instability from the get-go and doesn't allow the schools to know whether they should fire or hire more teachers, doesn't allow them to plan their budget is just...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.