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**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Raikes, on the Kristensen amendment.

**SENATOR RAIKES:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I voted for the Wickersham amendment with considerable reservation. I'd like to explain that. The reservation stems from the concept of equalization. The state aid formula contributes aid to schools, to local school districts on an equalized basis, a capacity to pay. Nonequalized schools, you understand, with the Wickersham amendment, are, in effect, held harmless. If we cut state aid, nonequalized schools will not be affected. Nonequalized schools, and there are several in the state, have more resources than needs now, that's why they're nonequalized. Equalization is an effort to bring equalized districts up to the nonequalized ones. With the Wickersham amendment we're going to allow equalized dist...or not, yes, equalized districts to fall farther behind nonequalized districts. The other thing I hope you understand is with the Wickersham amendment you're going to allow levy increases at local levels which are going to be inversely proportional to the capacity to pay. So the less wealth you have, the less property value you have, let me correct myself, property value you have per citizen, the higher the levy increase that's going to be allowed. Is that really what we want to do? The other thing I'll...and it's sort of a different point. I think the way this has been presented is we're talking here about an acute situation, not a chronic one. We're talking about a situation that occurs every now and then. If we're talking about a chronic situation, then I think the discussion is different. So we're talking about an acute situation where in fact we know this is coming. I think that was said a number of times. Well, if you have an acute situation that you know is coming, I think this cries out for a reserve policy. And Senator Stuhr has made this point. You set up a reserve fund that is...has capacity to address the situation. If the situation becomes chronic, then you have to change your policy. But I think the appropriate thing to do here is to look in the direction of creating a reserve fund. And perhaps we need to readdress the policy we have at the state level on reserves, in light of the fact that we are making continuing commitments. And I certainly would be interested in doing that. But I oppose the Kristensen amendment. Thank you.