

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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March 17, 1999      LB 149

bill, because that's what this is, it's a \$19.4 million Band-Aid. I am going to support the motion. I'm going to vote for LB 149. And, if our Governor does what he says he's going to do, I will vote to override the veto. I'm going to do this for a couple of reasons. Number one, I do believe it's been said here that we are committed to do this, and I think that's probably right. I have a number of school districts in my district which need the money. Several of them are still going to wind up, both Norfolk and Battle Creek are going to wind up still in the hole. And it's been said here today that we may, we may, might have to come back and revisit this subject some time in the misty future. Uh-uh. We will, we shall, we must visit this, because we are not solving anything. Senator Kristensen was kind of skirting around it, but he at least said it will always be more money. You know, when Samuel Gompers, who was the founder of the American Federation of Labor, came out of his first negotiation, where he had successfully gained recognition for his union and a contract which was a first, he was asked by a reporter, Mr. Gompers, you have everything now that you've asked for; what could you possibly want now? And he said, more! A hundred years hasn't made any difference, still wants more. The schools still want more. This formula is not going to do a thing, because this formula is based essentially on student count and has nothing to do with school cost. If half the population of the school departs, the bonds have to be financed, the light bill has to be paid, the heat bill has to be paid, 80 percent of the school budget, 75 to 80 percent is salaries, and they have to be paid. I had lunch with a school superintendent, not from my district, who had a parochial school in his area, 80-some students. I said, what would it actually cost you to absorb those 80 students? And he said, not a dime, because he has the buildings, he's paying all those costs now, he's paying those teachers now. And what he says, number one, he made a very good case, I believe him, he could have absorbed those 80 students with no increase in his cost. This formula doesn't do a thing to modify cost. And what you finally have to do at some point, and I don't know when it will be, maybe in the millennial year, 3000, we will address the core subject, which is what does it cost to run a school? And how does the state enter into that process of meeting those costs? I am one of the people here, maybe I'm the only person here who thinks that we should do away with property tax,