

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

March 23, 1999      LB 495

doesn't work, or else we're simply not honest, or else we're hypocrites, or else it's easier to tell somebody else to do it than it is for us to do it ourselves. I want my motion to be adopted.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on the bracket motion. I have several lights on. I will ask each one of you if you want to speak on the bracket motion and then I will leave your light on if you do not. Senator Price. Senator Price, I understand, wanted to talk on the bill. Senator Beutler, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, the question before you today is whether you would intend to sway the decisions of local school folks by supplying more money for certain types of programs, i.e., vocational programs, than for all the other kinds of programs that they're offering. I wanted to just fill you in on kind of the background historically on this, insofar as I know it, in that this bill, I know, has been before this Legislature and on the floor at least two other times in very similar form since I've been here, and I know it's been in committee and killed two or three other times over that time period. And I think and I would like to try to articulate why I think the Legislature has done that in the past and why, frankly, I think it should be done again. It is a difficult question because, one, most of us are in favor of funding education adequately, all forms of education adequately; and, two, we...most of us are concerned that there's a practical aspect to education, that it doesn't become too esoteric or obscure and doesn't prepare people for life. So there is a natural tendency to like a bill like this, I think. But the problems I think are both philosophic and practical. They're philosophic in the sense that the question is real as to whether we should be encouraging more expensive forms of vocational education at the secondary school level, both the question of whether that's good for students and the second question of whether that's really a form of education that's financially appropriate at that level. Can it really be done in all the secondary school levels, or is there another place in our system where we do that for students? And I think that there is. The general...one of the general views that one could have, at least the one I have, is that with respect to elementary education and