

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

April 27, 1999      LB 144

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Those wishing to speak on AM0880 are Senator Schimek, Senator Hilgert, Senator Landis, Jones, Redfield, and Vrtiska. Senator Schimek. Just turned her light off. Senator Hilgert. Senator Hilgert, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question, if Senator Bohlke, I'm not sure if it was covered. I had some conversations with some...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bohlke, would you yield?

SENATOR HILGERT: ...my public utility company regarding...I've been getting some calls on this and I guess there's a history to this NAEP testing and, incidentally, it was kind of interesting, I received some calls on NAEP and I'm thinking, now, I got to get ahold of Bill Arfmann and Rich Lombardi to figure out what is going on with Nebraska Association of Public Employees, which is usually what I get calls about, and to my refreshing that this has nothing to do with organized labor whatsoever.

SENATOR BOHLKE: And it may have been easier if it did. (Laugh)

SENATOR HILGERT: It may have been easier, that's quite true. Well, my question for you is in...some of the constituents that have called have some concerns about the history of this and we have assured them that things have changed and that whatever questions were inappropriate last years ago are no longer there, but one thing that I wanted to make sure of, is there an opt-out provision within this amendment for the parents? If I have a child in the school and I don't want them to participate in this testing program can I tell the school, listen, I don't want my child exposed to this? You know, not...not admit...not saying that there is anything wrong with the test, but saying if I believe it in myself and I don't care what anyone says, I don't want my child to participate, can we opt out of this testing?