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LB 144

as to how they think any one of these options may be best for Nebraska. I would ask...I would work with...ask the Education Committee to work with probably the legislative committee from the state board, so that we would be hearing these concerns or the direction people wish to go from both of us. That's my idea, right now, of what I would recommend to you. It would be a reduction in the budget. I think we would have to realize, if we still are committed to assessment, that would mean that the department would have to come back next year with a deficit appropriation. And so I...you know, we have done that before. We had somewhat of a similar case with the ESUs. And, Senator Wehrbein, I hope you're listening closely, so that we would have the understanding that we're taking the entire amount out for testing. The amount of money we're leaving in is for the report card that we have already said, the statewide report card, and the \$80,000 that would be the incentive money, if schools would decide to offer NAPE. The balance would be taken out. We would come back next year with what the final recommendation would be. There would have to be a deficit appropriation. And so, we would have to adopt the amendment to this bill. And I welcome your questions, I know you've had many. I think you felt previously that there was no real direction from the Education Committee or the lobby or your schools as to what to do. And as I thought about it and thought about it, I thought that's because there's a lot of confusion. And when there is a great deal of confusion, I'm hesitant...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...to move forward. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Vrtiska, on the Bohlke amendment to LB 144.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Bohlke, a couple of questions, if I might.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, but usually it's just one. (Laugh.)

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, first of all, I was listening to the