

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1107

school there when there is no justification any longer in strict educational terms for keeping the school there. And I would think that the rural communities would have some sympathy with the farmers who are trapped in some of these high-spending districts but who, of course, are always a minority in those districts. If we have a property tax problem, probably some of the people who have had the worst experience are farmers and ranchers trapped in these high-spending districts who can do nothing about it. Shouldn't we have organization that mitigates the heavy effect on these rural property owners and taxpayers? That's what we've been trying to do in here in a number of different ways. Shouldn't we do it by...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...efficiently organizing the school districts so that their levies make more sense? I don't know how else you take an objective look at this kind of a matter. I'd be willing to look at any other structure, but the State Department of Education I've never heard that they've been anything but objective in the studies that we've asked them to do. They are asked to appoint an advisory committee loaded with educators and the people who are most concerned. I think this is a reasonable way to get information. It doesn't mean that you have to act on the information but somehow in here we have to change the dynamic. You can't continue to ask for more and more money in state aid...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in various areas and not respond with efficient organization.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Janssen, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler, I'm going to support your amendment. I think you're on the right track. I'd like to see it go just a little bit further. I would like to see 93 school districts in this state, one per county. I'm not talking only 93 buildings. I'm talking about 93 districts, one for each