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SENATOR BEUTLER: There is only a limited number of money, it has to shift to a certain extent. Excuse me, Senator, I'm not...I didn't hear you. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, knowledge is power. This study, if it were to be undertaken, would cause some people to become very fearful of what action would result from the study. The only reason there is that fearfulness is because they are convinced that the present system is not efficient, that an objective perusal of the facts surrounding how school districts are organized in this state and how they function would reveal that a change is needed and that a change ought to come. So some feel the best way to stave off any change is to let the realm of information that is available continue to be fragmented, incomplete, and chaotic. I don't see anything to fear from this study. If, as I was saying to Senator Smith, this group were given some kind of authority to implement anything based on this study, I would be opposed to it. That's the Legislature's responsibility. But there are going to be all kinds of task forces created this session of the Legislature to study one thing and another, and many things. So to have one to look at the school districts in this state is probably more rational than any of those others. Those others are not dealing with ongoing problems that are of long duration in the past, that create difficulties in the present, and will continue to produce problems in the future. So to establish a committee that will do this study is not unwise. For my good friend Senator Dierks, who when it comes to the Ag Committee is the chairperson who leads us, I would be willing to leave him and the rural schools alone if they would leave state money alone. I'm saying that those state dollars draw the power and obligation, in my mind, of the state to exercise control. This study, however, does not go that far. There will be administrators, teachers, private citizens and others who should have an interest in education. So I am waiting to hear from those who oppose it opposition based on the study itself, how it is structured, the makeup of the members, and what its ultimate charge is. Senator Smith said he thinks it might be the first