

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

March 15, 2000

LB 1399

localities, which always come to the state for money, saying we believe in local control. They're not competent to control and operate the schools. The main reason is that to be on the school board, which is the oversight body, you don't have to have any education at all. Not only could you be a mule skinner; you could be a person professing to be a mule skinner and not even know what a mule skinner is and you could be on the board of education. So if we are serious about education in this state and if the current trend continues where the state is putting more and more money into these operations, the state is irresponsible if it does not take control. It's foolish to give money and give money and have nothing to say of substance about how it is spent, to not demand accountability, to set no standards which must be met. Parents who give their children allowances, in most instances, require something of their children. If you have a job other than that of a teacher or a senator, there are certain standards that have to be met or you can't keep that job. I can throw cops in there, too, as those who don't have to meet standards and who are basically unaccountable to anybody. But I think what Senator Don Pederson is suggesting is really long overdue, but I am mistrustful of those who will conduct the study because I doubt that there is a will to acknowledge that the state ought to have more control. So, regardless of what that study comes back and says, we ought to proportion the control of the state to the amount of financial support that the state gives. I'm willing to run the state like a business as these people who run for office always say. If Senator Redfield has a company and I like what that company does but I don't like the way she's running it and she's going to sell stock, then how do I change the way that company is run? I buy 50 percent plus a half percent of the stock and now Senator Redfield is still in the company, I'll still let it carry her name because obviously that has some drawing power to it, but I run the company. I make the decisions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We proportion the state's control to the amount of money that the state gives, so I think it's a very good amendment that Senator Don Pederson is offering, but I think we ought to go beyond just a study and begin to take that control.