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school districts simply based on the fact that they will decide not to have their own standards, that it's too much expense, that it's too much trouble. The six different areas that are in this amendment--reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and history--those are the very same standards that have been adopted, albeit too vaguely says the Attorney General, by the State Board of Education. So that is the sum and substance and the critical point, and the critical point in this whole setup that I think we need to turn our attention to and to address, and I suggest to you that this is one very viable solution to this portion of what I see as a big problem. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. For debate on the Beutler amendment, Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I assume that after we break for lunch we'll come back and probably discuss this particular amendment further, but I think in the beginning as we contemplate it one...one bit of the dialogue has to be what is the proper function of the Legislature and what is that of the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education sets policy. We, at times, have gotten into policy issues, but generally do we feel this is the policy issue for the State Board of Education, or do we believe that we should make it an issue of the Legislature that mandates that a policy be enacted across the state? I think that a number of you have seen, as Senator Beutler correctly stated, that Nebraska and Iowa are the only two that did not mandate standards, the reason being at the time that was stated by members of the State Board of Education was that they thought eventually all schools would adopt those standards because, as we move to the report card and the report card shows a number of things on how schools are doing, patrons would begin to question if their school did not appear there why they did...why their school was not a part of it and the pressure from the public would come about to those schools and they would adopt those standards. At one time this year, I asked for a list of school districts who had not applied for the lottery grants from the Quality Education Fund that we created a couple of years ago, that they had qualified as far as their students had scored above the statewide average on the ACT, but had not applied for any of the money, and I believe