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Transcriber's Office

March 27, 2000 LB 812

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...not as some of my colleagues and other educated people who write to me seem to think a sentence has on the average eight to twelve words so when they are going to write a short sentence they put 8 words and when they get to the eighth word they put a period, bam. And it might say the dog was called by its master to...period, and they think they got a sentence because they have several words and a period. I'm going to put my light on again but I'm supporting what Senator Beutler is about.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Redfield, Raikes, Bohlke, Tyson, and Chambers.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, let me try to point out to you in a different way on a different matter how this system is falling apart. Let's take a provision of the bill that is still in the bill, hasn't been taken out. Okay, here's the ultimate in hypocrisy, if you'll just follow this. This provision of the bill is not taken out: We should provide for the comparison of Nebraska public schools to their peers. Okay? We should be able to compare schools. Now, what do you have at this moment in time? You have the requirement for an assessment, each school district has to have an assessment, but the assessment is against the school district's own standards, not against a state standard. So they give a test on their own standards and, remember, they don't even have to have any standards, there's no legal requirement. Let's say they have them. I don't know what they're going to do if they don't have standards. I guess maybe they don't have to have a test. But if they have their own standards, they'll test against those standards and then they'll put them up on this big flashy report card. And what does that tell you? Well, you're thinking, let me see now, does that compare to other school districts? No, because it's not a state standard they were tested on. Well, how do you compare to other school districts? Nobody was tested on the state standards. They were all tested on their own standards. Forty-eight states now have statewide academic standards. Thirty-nine mandate tests that are aligned with their state standards. They test to their state standards. You know, I don't mind us being an oddball. I love the Unicameral and I like public power. But when you are odd out you ought to