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intrigued with the idea of school-based assessment for the reason that one of the things or what you're after here is...is education and public accountability. If you consider those two facets and you ask yourself which is the higher goal, is...in terms of a test, is the real thing you're after is to provide public accountability to let me, the taxpayer, know how my school is doing? Or is a slightly higher goal trying to make assessment a part of the educational process? Now, in my view, school-based assessment ranks higher or ranks the goal of education higher than public accountability. A single statewide test would be the opposite. So, for that reason, I am inclined or have been inclined and have supported the notion of school-based assessment. Now, the standards I think is quite...well, not a separate, an interrelated but somewhat a distinct issue, and I don't know what to do about this but it seems to me that Senator Beutler has a point; that we are, in effect with school-based assessment, requiring that schools assess against standards, but we've sort of escaped the job of saying exactly what those standards are. And if you require assessment against standards without saying what they are, I'm not sure what...what you're getting done. He mentions it falling apart and maybe that's correct. Maybe the only option here, if you don't want to mandate standards, is to make it permissive, but somehow that is not appealing to me because in that case the public accountability aspect of it I think would almost fall away entirely; maybe not totally entirely, but it would certainly fall away somewhat. So if I could, I'd like to ask Senator Bohlke a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, what in your view would be the difficulties we would encounter if we did, in fact, adopt this amendment or, in fact, adopted that part of it that required schools to...to accept and...accept the statewide standards?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Raikes, perhaps you'd missed, earlier I said I don't disagree. If I had been a member of the State Board of Education...