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they don't know the difficulty of the assessment or the difficulty of the...degree of difficulty of the standards. So one more thing I wanted to add this time around, I'm sure there are some teachers who are against the statewide standard and one single test, but I haven't heard from any of them. And, in fact, I have been...I'm pleased to note that in terms of my contacts at least teachers seem to be quite willing to take this on and quite willing to be competitive. Teachers seem to want to know and I...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...interpret that as a very strong sign.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On the Chambers amendment, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'd like to ask Senator Beutler a question, if I could.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, the last sentence in your amendment, could you explain what you have in mind with that. It says the State Department of Education shall adopt and promulgate rule...appropriate rules and regulations to ensure the rigor of the measurable quality academic content standards.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, Senator, above I tried to make what I thought we were all aiming at before this bill came along and before it was amended, and that was that the local school district standards would be the same as, in other words, they would adopt the state standards, or they would do something on their own that was equal to or exceeded in rigor the state standards. So in order...in order to have some sort of uniformity in that measure it seemed to me appropriate that somebody should set up a system whereby at least some relative uniformity of rigor could be...could be assessed with some sort of periodic audit or whatever from time to time.