

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

March 27, 2000 LB 812

standards or not. And I've said that will be your individual decision. If you want to come over and check and see if your schools are on this list, that would be a possibility. If that's of interest to you, you could call the superintendent and find out why they had not before determining how you want to vote on this. With that, I end my remarks. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Schimek, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I'd like to yield my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: We are mixing issues quite a bit here and perhaps we shouldn't do that, but it seems that in the process of assertion and reply that it almost needs to happen. I wanted to talk a little bit about testing and regurgitating facts versus critical thinking or being able to understand. And I used to think, well, critical thinking, being able to understand, that's really what it's all about. And I separated that in my mind from the underlying foundation of facts that is necessary either to have in the back of your mind in order to do critical thinking in a particular area or there are underlying facts that you have to reach out and back into the Internet or wherever and gather before you can do any critical thinking. In the lower levels of elementary school, I think the gathering of those facts and systems are extremely important; and they're important throughout the education process. You can't know how to deal and critically think in mathematics unless you know the multiplication table and the division and the way and the systems for doing that and decimals, and when you get older, algebra and geometry. The critical thinking derives then from that foundation of facts that you know. And so it is with the other subject matters. You can't understand and think critically about American government unless you understand some basic underlying facts about how the system is built and how it works. And so the two aren't as separate as I used to think and as many people tend to think and they pooh-pooh the facts. Oh, it's just regurgitating facts. It's just a test where you have to regurgitate some facts. But the fact of the matter is I