

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

March 27, 2000 LB 1010

you're recognized to open on LB 1010.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. First off, I want to thank the Education Committee. This bill has been a process that evolved over time this session, finally got it worded the way I think people wanted it workable, and I appreciate the help. I really thought all these cameras were waiting around for LB 1010 to come up, but I was wrong. They left. (Laughter) We're going to do a little short history lesson here. The committee amendments are now the bill, but just for those of you who are knew to the Legislature, and maybe some need some recollection here, but a history lesson coming up here. Congress, of course, gave each state Section 16 and 36 in each township for the support of K-12 education back when the states were granted...were actually formed, and, of course, the east half of the state of Nebraska sold the school...or the school land in the east half of the state was sold back in the early 1900s, leaving all the school land, at least most of it, in the west half of Nebraska, from Kearney west. There is a...there are a few acres down here in the east part of the state, but they are very few and far between. So it's basically a western Nebraska issue at this time. The State Constitution sets out the state of Nebraska as the trustee to this property, be it real estate, stocks, bonds, investments. The Board of Educational Lands and Funds is the state's agent handling this. So, and it is constitution...in the constitution. In 1996, Senator Bromm introduced LB 1205, a bill that directed the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to sell the school land down to where it was 25 percent of the total trust value could be held in real estate. That was LB 1205 in 1996. It set up some guidelines and reports and so on, and it gave the Board of Educational Lands and Funds till January 1st of 2008 to get this done. To date they've sold very, very little school land. I believe there is about 4,400 leases. They've sold around 180, and so actually the trust still has...roughly 60 percent of the trust value is held in real estate, and a lot of that is grassland, of course, in the western part of the state. So, with that, I think I'll go ahead and we'll go to the committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to