

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

April 5, 2000

LB 819, 1138

entities that need to be reorganized, doing that on the basis of some sort of formula that recognizes needs, I think is the way to do that. If you don't do that, I think that there's no way to identify what are the appropriate amounts of money to go to certain subdivisions. So I would think that that argument would lead you toward some sort of an attempt at equalization rather than away from it, is one concern. The other one that I'll mention just briefly, I...again, I'll mention. You said we can't take state sales and income tax money and distribute it to the very rich because we'll run out of money. Well, let me give you an example. We decided to provide an additional \$30 million of property tax relief through community colleges this year, and if there's some sort of an equalization there that directs that towards, say, low income citizens or other citizens that are in need as compared to high income citizens, I've missed it. I don't see where it is. And as a result of that, for example, we are now at a spot where our next year out reserve is a minus-50 million bucks. Well, I may be overstating it a little bit, but it's nearly that high. I think you have a good idea, but I think you're coming late. Why is this issue being brought up on this bill? Why wasn't...why didn't we address this earlier when I think we had an equally important issue to make a decision on and, really, there was little discussion of that issue at that point. So again, I appreciate your comments and the discussion, and also those of Senator Thompson. I think she illustrated very well how it is you run into all these difficulties trying to come up with an equalization formula, if you will, that makes sense. It's a very difficult job, but I think one that certainly needs to be approached. With that, I will stop and I'll yield the remainder of my time to Senator Wickersham, if he would like it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Raikes. members of the body, I'm sorry that we took your time this morning. I'll withdraw the bill and we'll go on to other business. The bill. Let's go through this.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: We will pass over the bill. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 819 is a bill by Senator Jensen.