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SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Raikes and Janssen.  
Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      Senator Raikes, I'd like to ask you a few  
questions.      It seems like each year when we come back around to  
the state aid formula and fumbling around to remember how it  
works, and so this year is no different so here we go.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Senator Raikes.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      But here's my first question.      School  
districts typically enter into negotiations with teachers for  
whatever salary and benefits they're going to have in the  
upcoming year, and I don't know when they typically do that, but  
it's, for example, for next year I think that's been done in  
many cases.      Is that not true?

SENATOR RAIKES:      Senator, I think it's...you're correct in it's  
typically started by now, but the ending date varies  
considerably.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      Okay.

SENATOR RAIKES:      Now you may be thinking about the rif date,  
which is April 15.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      But it's possible that the contract  
negotiations could be finished by this point in time, right?

SENATOR RAIKES:      Yes, it is possible.      And, in fact,  
occasionally there are two-year contractual arrangements made so  
that, you know, those are done, in effect, a year ahead of time.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      Okay.      And so the school districts, based on  
certain assumptions, have entered into these contract  
negotiations and they may, just as an example, have provided for  
certain increases to teachers' salaries as part of the effort to  
increase the very low status we have among the states in terms  
of what we pay to the teachers.      They may have made such  
increases as 4 or 5 or even 6 percent.      Now, if we come along