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LB 407, 574

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm unconvinced. These religious and private schools get all this credit for being so altruistic, Senator Louden; so noble, Senator Stuthman; so self-sacrificing, Senator Redfield. Well, if this money is gone, let them do what they are getting credit for doing. Let them find a way to let these individual kids go to that school. I don't want any public money going to those private schools. Now what Senator Raikes is talking about under his bill is one that would phase out, to use that term, whatever the current situation is, in five years. But according to the way I understand that phase-out, those going to these private schools who were there at the time the bill takes effect are going to be maintained at the current level of aid, but only for those in the private schools. It can fluctuate for anybody else, except they're guaranteed something through LB 574 that they're not guaranteed now. And that's why these private schools say we'll go for this and it pains us so much. It doesn't pain them at all. They are winning and they know it and they expect to get everything back that it appears they're giving up now, because they're not going to give up anything for five years. And, Senator Redfield, I understand what you're saying and there are a lot of programs I see in public schools, private schools, even in organizations, that I think are wonderful. If I could wave a magic wand and multiply those programs or, better yet, create circumstances where those programs are not necessary, that I would do. But I've told you all again and again I am a politician and I believe in dealing with reality. And I believe in helping everybody else to see the same reality that I see it, the way that I see it. Now there are individuals on the fringes of the Legislature's operation who might sit back and say, well, let him hold up the budget; we'll stay here 20 days with him. Fine. But there are other people who know what the reality is, and they are going to say, huh-uh, I hate him, can't stand the sight of him, wish I'd never hear his name again; I wish somebody had drowned him when he came out of his mother's womb. But none of those things happen, so I have to deal with the reality which is that Senator Chambers is a part of it, Senator Chambers said he will do certain things and he has demonstrated that he will. Now we have to factor that into how we're going to function. We have a