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SENATOR ENGEL: Perhaps, but the small increase, I think they'd probably be able to cope otherwise.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Engel. Members of the Legislature, these arguments cut both ways. The public schools are the state's responsibility. I feel no compunction about taking the position that I'm taking. The less money that goes to private schools, the more money available for public schools. That's where I think the state's obligation rests. I'm going to do everything I can to diminish the amount of money that goes to these private schools. Let them, since they have all these hifalutin, high-sounding principles, demonstrate them by the way they treat the kids who go there. If they're so eager to have these disadvantaged kids go to their school, let them go. But I've mentioned before when, during the sixties, a lot of money was made available to follow poor black kids from inner cities to schools, these private schools around Nebraska were teaming with black kids and I'd be invited by the faculty members to come out there and talk to these black kids. When the federal money dried up, guess what happened? No more coming into the inner city of Omaha to get black kids to come to those schools, and now they're virtual wastelands for a lot of black students. I watched this and I know that we have always, when I say we, black people, been viewed in terms of the economic benefit we can bring to others either through our labor, sweat and blood as during slavery, or the peonage that exists now even in a lot of parts...a lot of the parts of the South, or when we draw money to these institutions that couldn't care less about us. Look at the curriculum and see if it's black child friendly, Latino/Latina, Chicano/Chicana friendly. I'm starting to get invitations to come to some of these private schools to observe some of the things the kids are doing. I wasn't getting those invitations before. Why now? That is so thin that it is insulting to me and a misuse of those black students. But not one have I insulted. I will simply say it's very hectic in the Legislature now and I can't make it. That's the way they deal with us. They have no respect for our intelligence. They have no respect for us as people. So you cannot get me to shed any...