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FLOOR DEBATE

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would attempt to persuade the Speaker to special order LB 574 so that it can go before the budget bill. I had talked to Senator Stuhr. And I don't believe in trying to have a meeting of everybody before we have a meeting, because nothing happens. So I've been talking to Senator Stuhr about the fact that we will be working off the floor to try to present a package that has been worked out by all of the warring parties. And if those of us who have been battling each other on the floor come to the body with something that we agree on, whether we like it all or not, I believe the body will realize that no secret deals were made that hurt anybody. And I told Senator Stuhr how I don't want the private schools to get anything, so it's hurtful to me that they're still going to be in it. And she looked at me and she said, well, it's hurting me too the way it's going. So I told her, misery loves company, so we'll be together, suffering and consoling each other. But this is something that I think, once those main roadblocks are out of the way, namely PEAP, for me, and me, for those who want to support the private schools, we should be able to work out any rough places in Senator Raikes' bill, and it should not take forever. I believe once a decision has been taken, we should implement it. The only time that is to be expended, as far as I'm concerned, is in our deciding precisely what we're going to do. And then we come back with it. So I'm asking that you adopt this amendment. Senator Beutler said it's a daring move. In a way, yes, and in another way, no. I don't believe that there are enough people on this floor to do away with need-based aid altogether. I don't believe that will happen. But strange things occur in a political setting. So here's, in a sense, what you're doing. All of you have flown on jet planes. And you know, when it's running down the runway, going faster and faster, and the sound is getting louder and louder, before it reaches flying speed, they can brake, slow down and stop. But once that big baby takes off the ground, it's all or nothing. You have rolled the dice. All the eggs in the basket are either going to get safely to the destination, Senator Vrtiska, or they're going to splatter right here. When you adopt this amendment, the plane is airborne. But I assure you that we're going to give you a safe flight. We're going to bring you to a safe, happy landing. And everybody will feel better when it's over. And when you complete the work on that bill, you will wonder why we even had