

March 12, 1984

LB 994A

in response to some of the things that Senator Kahle said, let me remind you that I don't think we are taking local control away at all. As a matter of fact, I think we are putting more hands in local control than there is right now. Right now there is no mechanism to really see to it that school boards evaluate a teacher that has been tenured and been in the system for five or ten or fifteen years. There is no mechanism to, if you will, force some sort of an evaluation to keep that individual from perhaps becoming rather complacent, some might say even lazy, and I have heard those complaints and I know you have all heard them. Some of us have even made those complaints ourselves. We have made a lot of...or heard a lot of talk and heard complaints about how there are teachers out there that aren't very competent and aren't doing a very good job. So we bring to you a bill that says, well, we recognize that might be true, we are going to set up some mechanism here to try to force folks into bettering their skills, to have a career ladder, if you will, but we also think that we probably should have some sort of an incentive to get those folks to do it. And everybody agrees that, well, we have got some people out there that need to better their skills. We have got some people out there that we had ought to be concerned about how we can get them out of the system or else make them better. But when it comes time to put incentive in to try to bring that about, we are not so concerned about it anymore. Everybody says, well, we are doing away with local control. We would rather give it to them in a lump sum. We would rather give it to them in state aid or some other mechanism that says, here, school board, here is several thousand dollars or whatever and you distribute it among your teachers. Well, if we do it that way, I will tell you what is going to happen, we are going to really put ourselves in a position of putting the state in the middle of a negotiations processes. If we want to get in on the side of the teachers, that is a good way to do it, it seems to me. If we send a sum of dollars to a local school board and we say to them that we would expect you to spend this money for teachers, only you decide how you want to do it, you can bet the teachers are going to be in in their negotiations after that sum of dollars. Or the other hand, if we put a mechanism like we have got in 994 right