

to oppose Senator Hartnett even though, as I indicated on General File, I attempted to do this same thing. I think it is appropriate, now that we've got the legislative debate, the legislative intent, that we recognize that we do have here a vehicle to cause us to seriously look at this situation. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) The conversation level is really too high to hear the speaker very well. The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins, who is next in speaking order. There you are. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I support Senator Hartnett's amendment. As you all know, I've always supported special education. I understand it is the intent language only that he wants to strike, fund reimbursement for special education program costs of school age, handicapped children, freeze it so that for 1985, 1986, those children who need help the most will be penalized. Two years ago my legislative aide spent probably the whole summer going through the Omaha Public School system and trying to find out about special education. One of the things we found that they were doing was they were using such cheap paper for the books that they taught the mentally retarded with that when a retarded person would try to read the book the paper was so cheap that as they would hold a page up like this the print on the other side would show through. Now that would be difficult at most for you and I to read. But to be a retarded person and have to try to figure out which words you were supposed to be reading is something else. That is how cheap Omaha Public Schools are in their special education. If this is only intent language I would like to know why it doesn't appear with every agency that we are funding. Is there anything in the intent language saying we will put a cap on and freeze the University of Nebraska's budget to send them a message? Is there a cap on any university saying you are going to have the same budget for '86 as you had in '84, because special education is always a year in arrears in being funded. This, to me, is "bullyism." You are picking on those who are least able to defend themselves. How many thousands of dollars do we give each year for the brilliant intellectual to come to the University of Nebraska, the one who is most capable of taking care of himself, of earning a living. Yet the intent here is teach them a lesson, freeze the money for