

the question of where school districts, like mine, who have already made an investment in Internet, where we are going to...are we going to be reimbursed for that money? Are we going to be able to get, if everybody else is going to be getting money to initiate Internet, are we going to get money for the money that we've already put into it, and these questions go unanswered, and they still haven't given me a good reason other than what I already know, Senator Withem and those who were in opposition to my bill to put it into the 1059 money, but what about the individuals who voted for this on General File? Why are you now suddenly deciding that getting the lottery money into this program isn't a good idea, and now you are looking for some other funding source? No one has stood up who voted for 860 on General File, other than Senator Withem, and I already know his objections, to tell me why you are considering a change of funding for this. It is not that I don't want Internet. I have gone to Senator Hall trying to get Internet for every senator on this floor because it is a wonderful tool to have, but wants don't necessarily translate into something that we can afford to do, and I understand your trying to make this translate into something we can afford to do, but we need to do that in the context of trying to alleviate the tax burden that Nebraska citizens are under from all sources, not just property taxes, but from all sources. Businesses, everybody is under a tax burden because we don't have the population here in the State of Nebraska to fund every want for every organization. So given that that's the framework that we are supposed to be working under this year, now we are spending all morning, and now starting all afternoon on a bill that we had a tax source for, and I talked with some senators, I understand that lottery money falls off after a certain number of years, but we could fund what we could with the Internet with that money in the next year or two, and then if that money fell off, then we'd have to slow down that program, but it wouldn't necessarily be taking it from another funding source or...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...from another taxing source, such as ESU. I guess I was very happy with the first bill and I voted for it on General File, given that the funding source was going to be lottery money. And now suddenly this discussion has changed because Senator Withem and, obviously, the NSEA has decided that they don't want their lottery money touched for anything, and now we are going to look for money somewhere else, and we are