

'89, someplace along in that line, we finally got recognition that something needed to be done for school equity and tax equity with the way in which we financed education. It took us another two years to craft what ultimately became LB 1059. That was introduced in the 1990 session. Senator Bromm, that of course was a short session. Bill was introduced in January, it was then debated and was passed in the 1990 session, moving us from a flat grant basis of distributing state aid to one much more sensitive to equalization. Since 1990 we've had at least one study, I think maybe a couple, by some outside experts in the area of school finance, who have recommended that we need to move to a more equalization-based formula. In 1992 session I introduced legislation that would have impacted upon the rebate, would have impacted on other factors within the state aid formula that would have moved us toward a more equalization driven formula. Those bills were introduced again in 1993, and in 1994, and in 1995. This summer Senator Bohlke spent the entire summer, well, she might have played a little bit of golf, but most of the summer she spent studying this issue of school finance, moving toward a more equalization driven formula. Again, spending lots of time up and down the interstate, throughout the state, gathering input, and LB 1050 was a result of that. I don't think we need to delay, I don't think we're rushing anything through at all. I mean it's very similar, I guess I'm sounding like a replay of some of Senator Beutler's remarks the other day on his bill. But I don't think we need to delay at all. How does this juxtapose with the property tax issue? It's fairly simple, and I think it's on this one sheet of paper that I passed out this morning, that if we are going to cap, if we're going to move to a levy cap, which is what we say we're going to, I think, with...with...and I was chastised this morning, LB 1114, or 1141, one of those bills, I get the two numbers confused all the time. If we're going to cap at \$1.10 levy, this is what's going to result for 20 school districts in your state. You're going to have a South Sioux City Public School system that is going to be able to raise \$1,500 locally, where the statewide average cost today is about \$5,000. What are we going to do with (LB) 299? We're going to drive that cost down somewhat, or at least it won't have grown in the next two years.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: But that's what's going to happen. You don't