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SENATOR ROBINSON: Can I still give my time to someone else?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I don't think that Senator Janssen accepted your yield. You still have time on your opening.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, I would like to turn my time to Senator, let's see, who is it, Senator Wickersham. Is Senator Wickersham in the audience? Senator Wickersham, is he here? I'm giving my final six minutes of my opening to you, Senator Wickersham, on the retirement bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham, Senator Robinson is trying to yield time to someone, and I assume you are the one he is trying to yield time to. This is his opening. There is approximately five minutes left, if you wish to accept that time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Oh, thank you very much. This is a topic that I might be able to remember something about, if I'm given just a moment. As I understand, the committee amendment that will be presented, and I take it that's going to be the main topic of discussion this morning is the committee amendment, not the bill specifically as introduced, but the committee amendment provides for what is generally characterized as a modified rule of 85. I think that is an appropriate rule for adoption in the school retirement system, that is for those teachers and for those employees of school districts outside the Omaha district. And I think you do have to be careful to recognize that the proposal is applicable only to those schools and school districts outside of the Omaha School District because they have a separate system. The proposal will, indeed, allow individuals the opportunity to retire at an earlier age than they would otherwise because they'll have a more adequate benefit level. They could retire under the existing plan at age 55 or whenever they reached the combination that would amount to a modified rule of 85, but at the moment, they would suffer an actuarial reduction in their benefits, and it is that actuarial reduction in their benefits that might make it impractical or unfeasible for them to retire at that spec...at that time. Now the proposal does not require, thank you, the proposal does not require anyone to retire, and I think that needs to be made clear. It gives them an opportunity to retire. And you can