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is a loan. So they might...they may need other resources to cover housing and...and books and other expenses.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I guess I really needed to get a copy of the legislation and understand it better, because I've forgotten a lot that we talked about when this bill was up. Of course, one of the things that bothers me, and I guess it probably bothers a number of people, is that we passed this bill when we had money and now we're trying to pay for it when we don't have any money and that, in the minds of some, of course, does create some kind of a problem. But I don't want to...I don't want to query you any further, Senator Thompson, because I guess it's my duty to look up and get...and understand..."reunderstand" actually how this...how you qualify for these funds if you want to go into the field. And I'm...I'm certainly a person who believes that we need to do all we can to attract quality teachers and, as I understand it, from what you said earlier and what's been discussed, this does in fact try to bring the best teachers into the field, so it's difficult to...to not support this kind of...this kind of legislation. However, as I indicated earlier, at a time when funds are short, it does make it more...more difficult for the body as a whole to...when they're looking for places to make cuts and we didn't fund it a year ago, you're...you're trying to make up your mind is this the right time to start funding this kind of a program when our fund...when our state funds are short as they are. But I want to listen to more of the discussion and...and, with that, I'll turn the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. We're discussing the committee amendments to LB 541. Those wishing to speak are Senator Schimek, Wehrbein, Chambers, and Thompson. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President and members, I rise to perhaps say to Senator Chambers that I think he is right in pushing for the children in his district. I think that he has a very legitimate issue and I think that...I hope that people are listening. I hope that people in the Omaha Public School system are listening. I do believe he has a legitimate point, but I would like to add a little bit different element to