

easier in times of even more rapid inflation, even more rapid fuel costs than when we discussed this issue before, even more rapid the cost of everything that it takes to provide services. That there has to be some, I am going to listen with a great deal of interest from those who have talked today on limits as they try to justify increases in their special programs and agencies within state government then hide behind the cloak of saying, well we mean overall spending...of course, the University may go up, but we mean overall spending. It is amazing that we can look at institutions and agencies and talk that we have to have some flexibility there, and when we tried to provide it at the local level on a lid that grew out of chagrinery... now John, you spilled something there...that grew out of political haste, political maneuvering, Senator Murphy is absolutely correct, we ought to be honest enough to repeal the lid but since it is there, those programs that are important, those programs this Legislature has designated as important, those that we have sent down and now we are going to pay for all of them, certainly should be an in and out transaction of funds. I don't find that inconsistent and I don't find it disagreeable, and I think that this Legislature has a full obligation to look at problems as they are and address them with some degree of rationale rather than be stuck with some percentage that was inserted two years ago that was a political percentage and it sent some people to better offices and it embarrassed others. I think Senator Fowler has got a rational approach, and I think it makes sense, and I support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, Senator Fowler's amendment does not establish a precedent. The program that we are talking about is in its first year, and for us to allow to continue it is not a precedent at all. I remind you of one other fact you may not remember. Presently the program has enrolled and identified about nine hundred and some odd children. Of that nine hundred plus, over seventy-two percent of them are being educated in Lancaster, Douglas, Sarpy and a few other counties. So what is happening here is that there are several school systems who have the biggest burden of carrying out the intent of the Legislature, and I think for those people some day to suffer from the limitations that we have imposed when those federal funds are always tenuous that we may have to start picking up locally again, for us to impose that upon a few systems would be gross neglect on our part. We are not establishing a precedent at all. That program