

school board for the state. It is up to we 49 to frame the grand plan for education and that means, not reflecting parochial interests by maintaining until all breath ceases from one's body a piece of legislation that has no chance of passage on this floor. It means hammering out the great planks. It means effecting compromise. It means recognizing competing interests, but it means being in the fray and in the struggle and at the center. We are the ones to frame the grand plan for education and this is the first step. If this bill were killed today, this Legislature would be setting back a grand plan for education for another decade.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And so we now must put the steel in our collective spines. We must put our wills on the table. We must stand tall. We must begin with the first step. You redo the structure and you do it in a way that is fair and equitable to the people. You don't hurt the people. You don't hurt the children. You simply deal with the structure and then you look at the finance and I've got plans for finance and I'll converse about them with you publicly or I'll converse about them with you privately. I do not have a corner on truth, but I do know you begin with structure and then the finance you work out and you struggle through and you wrench it out of the barren soil, but it can be done, and we will do it...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...because the grand plan lies with us.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck, please.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, it is pretty difficult to follow a narrator as Senator Vard Johnson, but I have to disagree with him. We had a plan in my particular district that I represent. We have done it. We have reorganized and I'm going to tell you this, that there is a tremendous inequity of taxation in that particular area. Even between Class III school districts it varies over 50 percent difference. If you're going to talk about equity in financing schools, we'd better take a look at the total picture and the only way we can do it is what Senator DeCamp has just mentioned earlier. We have to look