

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to encourage you to support this amendment. Senator DeCamp has given a very thorough outline of it. That which he said is absolutely true, the bill is gutted, but it, at least in my opinion, I think addresses the very basic issue which has brought forth LB 662 to begin with. In addition to giving the support to the amendment, we are at the moment trying to get a copy of a printout of what the formula for the support of schools will do to property tax in every school district in the state. As soon as that is finished, we will have it distributed to you so that you can see what it will do to your property tax in your own school district. I have long, and as I said the other day, felt that the financing of schools is to a large degree a state responsibility because of what our Constitution says. It is the only government entity that, by Constitution, the state has a responsibility. According to the hearings that we have held, as I also said the other day, for a number of years, addressing property tax and the excess...

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten, I am sorry to bother you but I've had a request from a member that we can't quite hear you. The Chair would like to ask for order and attention to this important debate, please. (Gavel.) Keep your conversation level down. Thank you. Proceed, Senator Carsten. I'm sorry.

SENATOR CARSTEN: These hearings that we have held clear across the state, including testimony from taxpayers themselves, that schools do demand from property too much load for it to carry. It is out of proportion. We have suggested broadening the base and have gotten very little, if any, support for broadening. But we have had tremendous support from making more equitable in proportion that which is now in place using general fund money that is made up largely from sales and income, miscellaneous and so forth for a larger share of the support of schools. As Senator DeCamp said, there are some details that need to be worked out, some further problems that we need to address, but we will do that. But we believe this is the first step that addresses the problem as it now exists. It would appear that there is strong support from many of the schools, many from the school boards. I think that if the Class I's will think very seriously about it, and what it will do, they too can support this measure. I would urge you to look