

somehow the "fudger" will be able to take advantage of whatever the average levy is across the State of Nebraska. Now we have got to do some real hard things and the first thing that we have to do is we have got to establish a method of financing education which does not mortgage the future. Senator Warner knows how bad it is to mortgage the future and what happens is that we cavalierly pass legislation which we do not fund knowing that the Legislature in the succeeding year or the year thereafter will have to take up the funding and that is mortgaging the future. That is a serious mistake to make. What I am doing with Senator Schmit's amendment is I am attempting again in good faith and with all due respect and regard for the seriousness of Senator Schmit about his amendment, I am attempting to prevent a serious mortgage on the future. I am saying our target goal in 1989 is a system that allows or requires only 45 percent of local budgets to come from the property tax. And Senator Schmit will probably...or Senator DeCamp will probably explain when this bill comes back to Select File that really puts the State of Nebraska more closely in the driver's seat on financing education which is where it ought to be. But the language doesn't mortgage the future. It doesn't cause our successors enormous grief and pain and more importantly it doesn't hamstring local boards of education. It really does retain that basic concept of local control and tax autonomy. Senator Schmit says, well, how are we going to enforce a 45 percent across the board budget? How are we going to do that? Well, the truth of the matter is that we do that only by ensuring that the state lives up to its responsibility in providing the state aid that is contemplated by this kind of language. We become the enforcers and we become it on ourselves which is where the buck...where it ought to be, which is where it ought to be because in the end we are the school board for the children of our state. The Nebraska Constitution lays one primary responsibility on the State Legislature and that is to provide for the common education of children in our state in schools. And so by putting the monkey on our backs with this amendment, we become the ones who have to take full responsibility for making certain that money is there so that local school districts will not have to have more than 45 percent of their budgets come from local property taxes. It is a responsible change. It is the better way to go and again I would ask your support.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the return of the bill for