

I would come down on this issue. Ever since I have watched this Legislature operate, ever since I have paid attention to what goes on down here, ever since I was a teacher back in the classroom at Papillion High School I used to watch what the Legislature would do with funding of education. I was always supportive of placing more emphasis on state funding. I'm very much aware that Nebraska is one of the lowest states in the nation, I think the second lowest state in the nation, in terms of the amount of support that it offers for schools on the state level. Conceptually, I should sound like I'm supportive of leaving this language in LB 662. The speech you just heard would leave you to believe that we have solved in perpetuity our funding problems for education, that we have in place in the statute a bill that will just automatically go on, we have to do nothing else with LB 662 funding mechanism because we have solved the problem forever. Nothing is further from the truth. LB 662, if you remember, I was the one person that stood on the floor as the amendment was being adopted which pointed out one minor little technical problem maybe with LB 662 and the funding language, raises a tax and doesn't tell you how you're going to spend it. All it does is say there will be a tax imposed, 1 percent sales tax effective in 1987 and that...that's it. It doesn't say where it's going to go or how it is going to be spent. There is no distribution. Language is far, far too general. There is language that says no more than 45 percent of the funding of education will come from local property tax forces. That's nice. It's a nice intent statement. There is nothing to implement that language. The 1 percent tax will fund, as Senator Warner has told us any number of times, will fund only \$90 million of that. We need at least another half percent or maybe more to fund the rest of it. We do not have a finished product in the language. We will have to come back. We will have to pass legislation in the future to deal with the funding of education. It's not done. It's not over with. What I'm afraid will happen is if we don't do this in a systematic fashion, we can just as easily come in and repeal the 45 percent language, just as easily repeal the one cent tax as we can implement that language and I'm afraid that's probably what we're going to do. We have a chance this next special session to do one thing that I've never seen done here in this body before and that is have the legislative branch and the executive branch work together to fund education. Every one of these issues that I have seen with funding of education in the past has been