

current situation?

SENATOR VICKERS: That is correct.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, very quickly I am just going to urge that the bill be advanced and describe it in the way that I think it is in now, and if Senator Lamb in his closing disagrees with anything I say about the state of the current bill, I am sure he will correct me. But as I understand what we have done with the bill at this point is we have basically eliminated the initial per pupil expenditure provision of the bill as the bill was introduced and sent to the floor. We have adopted the tax or readopted the current tax equity formula, and really the only changes we will be making in the status quo as the bill now is written, maybe Senator Lamb can respond to this, the bill as it now has been amended basically will do a number of these clarification points that are on the explanation sheet that I have here with the exception of the 2. (f), pages 6 and 7, the local option. We will be redefining finance. We will be changing from a five-year enrollment data base to the most previous year, and these other clarification amendments with the exception we will be leaving the current language regarding the option at the local level. Is that correct, Senator Lamb?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Senator Withem, that is correct as I see it, that it is really a clean-up bill. It does some things to the present formula which need to be done if we are going to keep that formula. I would have preferred my bill in the original form. I realize that that probably did not have enough strength to carry. I think this is the second best thing we could have done and so I will support the bill.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, with that understanding, at this point I think we should advance the bill to Select File. I think Senator Lamb has indicated he wants to look at the effect of the bill. I would like to look at the effect of the bill. We may have some more discussion on Select File, but at this point I think we should advance the bill. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.