

haven't participated in those discussions as much as we should have. I think we've been derelict in that responsibility. A couple of things I'd like to point out in closing. We talk about...Senator Johnson talks about the increases in the budget on the local level, how they have not provided a decrease in their operating expenses when we provide more state aid to education. Just one thing I would like to point out as far as...I did provide you, on this chart, the growth in state government operations. What I have done is also ask Dale Siefkes, of the School Board's Association, to provide with me what has happened to the growth of overall budgets, state aid, property tax, federal aid, the whole thing that we use to operate local school districts in the state. What has happened to those during this same time period? From '74-75 down to the present, state operations have increased 109 percent according to the information I have. What has happened to school boards during that same time? They've increased 92 percent, 17 percent less growth in the amount of money we spend to educate our young people than the growth in state government. Government costs have grown, Senator Johnson, we are well aware of that. I would submit that local school districts have grown at a lower rate than state government operations. That is an important fact, something I wasn't aware of until a couple of minutes ago. I think we do need to talk about, when we are talking about funding education for young people, state money spent to educate young people, we've got to start talking about more than the University budget. I supported the amendment the other day. I think you convinced me. Probably cutting three percent out of the state government...state university's operation was too much. I'm submitting to you that the amount of state money that we spend to educate our young people in grades K thru 12 also needs to be looked at. I think cutting three percent in that area is also too severe. With that, I ask you to support this amendment to return to Select File to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You've heard the closing on the Withem amendment. Question is the adoption of the...excuse me. The question is to return the bill for a specific amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Requires 25. Have you all voted that care to? Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, I would like a call of the house and a...