

have been taking all the cuts out of foundation and equalization has been going scot-free. All the cuts have been coming out of foundation. Now, Senator Johnson says that equalization is designed to reward those districts which don't have much property per student and that is correct. But the problem with equalization aid is it does not equate itself to the income of the people in that district. Now you can have a district with low valuation per student, but they can have a high personal income. That is the problem with the state aid formula that we have at this point. Equalization does not equalize as it should. Under the present formula it says if you have low valuation per student, you get equalization aid. If you have a high valuation per student in general, you don't get it. But the fallacy of that is it does not take into consideration that that property in many cases does not produce income, particularly in rural areas, that a much better method of distributing equalization aid would be on the income of the people in the school district and I plan to have a bill in the next session which will modify that equalization formula. So, what I am saying in summary is the fair way to do it is to leave the bill as it is, as the Appropriations Committee has it, that part of the cuts come from each area. Foundation has taken the hits in the last few cuts we've had so now it certainly is time to take some of the reduction out of both foundation and equalization. I hope you will oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, then Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support the Vard Johnson amendment. A minute or two ago Senator Abboud came up and said he was confused by the previous state aid to education motion because Senator Lamb and I were on the same side, an opposite side from Senator Vickers and he was kind of confused at that one. I guess we go back to more traditional patterns on this one with Senator Lamb and I taking opposing sides. I agree with Senator Johnson's arguments. I will not repeat those. He did an excellent job of defining equalization as a method of attempting to equalize property taxes within our state to give a little more money to those property poor school districts. Just two or three points I would like to make, one of which Senator Lamb made reference to, historically what we've done with cuts in recent years, and again, I don't have the figures in front of me either, Senator Lamb. But as I remember since I've been around we've done three cuts in state aid to education. The first one of those came equally out of equalization and from foundation aid. The last two, you're