

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schimek. Is Senator Schimek here? If not, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I'm going to vote for this. I think it has merit. It's not going to pass but parts of it I like. I came very close to introducing a bill this year which would put all teachers on the state payroll and we would have a system then where all the teachers should be...have an equitable salary base and then, of course, you would have to have some sort of a system so that school boards didn't hire too many teachers. I mean, they would have to have a quota, the number of teachers they could hire, and they could do their own hiring and keep the school boards. It's different than Senator Schmit and Senator Rogers' amendment in that respect. We would still have the school districts. We would still have the local property tax used for buying the books and the crayolas and the chalk and the fuel. But then the teacher's salary which is 60 or 70 percent of most school district costs would be borne by the state and you are then taking them off the property tax roll. That's the major accomplishment. I am becoming more and more convinced that the only way we reduce property taxes in the long run is to take things completely off the property tax. We don't give them more state aid because then the property tax just creeps back up. It doesn't...in the long run, that doesn't do the job. The only way we have a significant shift away from property taxes is to take certain entities off the property tax rolls. One of the most logical ones is the community technical colleges. They should not be getting property tax money. There is really no logic for that because the other institutions of postsecondary education rely completely on sales and income tax for their state...for their public money and so there's no reason why the community colleges should not also be on that level. But I'm going to support this but I guess I would prefer it...the problem with it, of course, is that there may only be one school district in the state eventually, like they have in Hawaii. But if we just pay the teachers from the state, I don't think we would run that chance.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Kristensen, then Senator Schimek. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I'm undecided on how I'm going to vote on this but, Senator Schmit, I think you certainly have captured the