

not a part of it we want to make it a part of it, the educational cost. Senator Bereuter has attempted to compromise the situation in terms of saying let's do this for this year, and hopefully by September, and I visited many times with Rog Miller in trying to put the program together that that program will be there. So the one year limitation is alright now because we'll have a chance to evaluate it come January. But you can't say we're going to do it for one year and then turn right around and say if space is not available for diagnostic services we're not going to do it. Senator Bereuter, again out of a spirit of cooperation, I think we ought to accept the first half of your amendment, but not the second. I think the State Department ought to know the full legislative intent here. The second part of your amendment is in absolute contrast with the first part. I think we need a diagnostic center in the West. I think that would be helpful to those children. That diagnostic center ought to operate right on the basis and premise of LB 403, just like every one of our programs do in regard to special education. I think we're to the point of resolution of the issue with the exception of the second part of the Bereuter amendment. I know the concern that Senator Bereuter has. I know the interest he has. Again, I say that the only way this is going to work is to tell those school districts the program must be there, you must provide for it, and you must pay if your children are at Cozad now, and you've got one year to put the package together. That one year means one year. We ought to start immediately upgrading the diagnostic facilities. Again, Senator Bereuter, I think you're going to put a lot of people in a precarious position. I attempted to amend the last part of your amendment out. It is an amendment to an amendment. The only recourse left to me will be to oppose the entire amendment, and I don't want to do that, and I don't think you do. I think what I want to accomplish, and what you want to accomplish, and what Senator Duis wants to accomplish, and what the entire Legislature wants to accomplish can be put together with the Koch amendment and the first part of yours. Again I say let's do it that way, or we're going to have to vote the amendment down and rewrite it, and I don't want to do it. This problem needs to be resolved and I think we've got the mechanism to do it now. All of the programs that we're going to do in this state, from now in special education, are going to be delivered through the same system. The local school district is going to be responsible. The state is not responsible for preschool education except in those designated statutory areas. We're going to maintain that posture. The system is just about in place now in terms of understanding the delivery of service, and understanding who is responsible where, who they can contract with. This has been a long, long five year battle in here, more than that. No, I guess it's five years because I was here when 403 passed. We're just about to it and we're just about there on this issue, Senator Bereuter, if you'd like to be flexible.

PRESIDENT: You have one minute.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Part of good legislation, of course, is the ability to compromise and become flexible.

PRESIDENT: Senator Merz.