

would just like to quickly support the amendment. The amendment as I understand it essentially allows a parent of a Class I school district person upon merger, not only to send his or her child to the high school in the merged district, but to any other high school and then requires the district in which the Class I has merged to pay the tuition. Is that correct, Senator Smith? And it seems to me that this particular amendment is in accordance with the whole intent of 662 and that is to make things as much the same as they were in terms of how you operate out there and in terms of protecting the people in the Class I school district while at the same time providing more tax equity and for that reason I would support the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, Senator Smith showed me this amendment yesterday and I went over it with her. I understood what the need for it was. Again the need is to protect some small and some small non-Class I school districts who are fearful that an abrupt determination of the free high tuition would be fairly devastating on them in the early years. After going over the amendment pretty carefully with Senator Smith, I concluded in my mind that it was a very responsible thing for us to adopt and for her to offer and so I would support it at this time. I guess I'd like just to emphasize one more time, maybe this is Senator Scofield's, Senator Scofield talks about the Japanese method of folk getting together and working things out. In some respects the folk who have to get together are here right today, 49 of us working things out slowly, inexorably, giving and taking, pushing and pulling, amending, compromising, trying to arrive at the right solutions and that is what the legislative body is all about. I also wanted to say to Senator Carsten I appreciated his remarks. They were thoughtful remarks and Senator Carsten always has been. I think in fact again those remarks reflect...are reflective of the kind of temperament that all of us need to have to deal with the enormity of property taxes in our state and the kind of cockeyed educational finance structure that we have and the basic need to slowly, inexorably grind it through so we come up with a decent system for the last ten years, last fifteen years of the 20th Century. I would support Senator Smith's amendment.