

success in your campaigning. Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President, and members, I rise to oppose the committee amendment and the bill as a whole. This bill has not gotten a lot of attention and you can see from the number of people who are not on the floor that it is not receiving a lot of attention here in this body at this point. This is a very important bill having to do with reorganization of schools, and it is so important that, in my opinion, that if this bill passes in the form we have it here, there would be no need for LB 662, LB 726, or any other mandatory reorganization bill. I have passed out a sheet which briefly explains what it does with the committee amendments. If the committee amendments are adopted along with the green copy, this bill is involuntary consolidation or mandatory consolidation, whichever you would like to call it, but it is not widely recognized as being that. And why is it a mandatory consolidation bill in disguise? Two reasons, the first part is in the committee amendments which, as Senator Withem explained, is really LB 443 which has been...it is being put in the bill through the committee amendments. This, number one, gives the large schools control of the county reorganization committee. That is what the committee amendment does, and then in the bill itself, it gives control of the vote on the plan that may be adopted by the committee to the large schools or the populous areas. So what the Education Committee is saying here, well, we want to have it both ways. In the committee amendment, the people, the school board members will vote on the consolidation...on the reorganization county committee by class, by class of district, but when we get into the green copy toward the back you will see that they have stricken that language by class of district and so everybody is going to vote in one big pot. So the big schools can outvote the small schools. Now, admittedly, under the present law, the small schools have the advantage in selecting the county reorganization committee because all the school board members vote as a whole in the county for all the members. So, while they have to vote for members which are part of the big schools, they select their members quite judiciously so they do retain control of the county reorganization committees in many instances. So here we have, we have a bill here which is going to change the rules. We have had voluntary reorganization for many years. It has not gone as fast as a lot of people have wanted it to go but it has advanced over the years. But here we are going to have community fighting community. We are going to have the big schools trying to absorb the small schools if this bill goes into effect. You are going to have widespread