

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. Speaker, members, you have seen a coalition...a coalescing, excuse my wrong word here, a coalescing of a committee, not unlike you see a coalescing of the Appropriations Committee when the budget bill comes to the floor. It is really truly amazing. We'll see, on the next amendments, whether they stay coalesced now or not. I don't think the ideas that I brought before you are bad. If the committee is this truly convinced that it is not going to harm this system as they have it presented to you, then I think that you are making an informed vote, an informed vote that you know that this legislation is going to tend to encourage cooperatives. You are making an informed vote that you are giving the Department of Education over an intermediate service system out there, and you are saying that that intermediate service system is now going to operate on the free market principle. You tell me where else in education are you asking for free market principles in providing services? Certainly not the Department of Education. As long as you are making informed votes about how those services are delivered to the State of Nebraska, and you feel comfortable that you are not discouraging a delivery system that is integral to meeting mandates, then I have no problem with the fact that I brought these issues before you. I think they were good to be discussed. Sometimes we let committees do their work, and I know this committee did good work. In fact, I heard that, out of a lot of the interim studies that were done this year, this was probably one of the most thorough. So I commend everybody involved in that, staff and senators alike. But I do think these were issues that need to be raised. Maybe 10 years is too much. Senator Lynch had the opportunity to offer that down in an auction to 5 years, but I think he just didn't want it, so he was going to leave it as bad as possible in his eyesight. However, I don't think this is...I don't think this is inappropriate to ask a school district to consider that before they withdraw from an educational service unit. For those of you who are interested in maintaining the strength of those service units, I would ask your favorable consideration of this vote.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is, shall the amendment to the amendment be adopted? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 4 ayes, 16 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion fails. Next item.