

seems to me that it is something that is right as long as the employees are paying for the full cost and it does not cost the district a dime, they ought to be able to implement that. It is merely being consistent with what the state does, with what all other public employees do.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Senator Simon. I support Senator Lamb's amendment because I do not think we ought to mandate the school district to do this. I think if they choose to do so, that is fine.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I now recognizes Senator Cullan and then Senator Frank Lewis and then Senator Simon. Senator Cullan, the floor is yours.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am very happy that Senator Simon responded to the question from Senator Hefner because Senator Simon outlined to me the greatest reason to support the Lamb amendment. He said and as I remember it distinctly from just a few seconds ago, he said, "they," referring to the school board, "ought to be able to" and that is exactly what you would be doing if you adopt this amendment. You would be allowing the Board of Education of each of these school districts to make a determination themselves whether or not they want to use this kind of a system. I think each year we erode slowly the authority of the school boards in the State of Nebraska and I think that we should not continue to erode that authority. Furthermore, I believe that this is sometimes used as a point in negotiations between a labor organization or a professional organization and a school board and sometimes there are some compromise on this particular issue and I certainly do not think we should prohibit school districts from using or from collecting these dues but neither do I think we should mandate it. I think if a Board of Education and a Teachers' Association makes an agreement that they wish to collect these fees, that is fine, but I do not think that the State Legislature should take that discretion away from the School Board and weaken their position in any negotiations that might occur. So I see nothing wrong with the Lamb amendment. I think it significantly improves the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Distinguished President, I apologize for speaking two or three times this morning but it appears that those bills that I have an interest in are up. I would like to ask Senator Cullan a question first. Senator