

because that is essentially what we are doing with this bill. We are taking one more tool away from that local elected body that the people put their trust and their confidence in and we are telling that local elected body that you do not have the intelligence, you do not have the background to give or take this particular tool in negotiations. We are saying you can not have this tool. We are saying you can not make this decision. We are going to make this decision for you down here on the floor of the Legislature. This decision is going to be made for you in Lincoln. It can not be made in Hemingford. It can not be made in Crete. It can not be made in Milligan. This decision has to be made by this body down in Lincoln because you are incapable of making that decision. I think it is unconscionable that the Nebraska State School Board Association did not come and testify against this bill. I think it is terribly wrong that independent individual school superintendents and administrators and school board members did not come down and testify against this bill because they are giving up something that is very vital to them in the area of negotiation. How much more control do these people want us to take? I am beginning to think they really do not want the control. I go home and they say, you mandate 90% of the programs. Please do not mandate any other thing on us but then I look at the committee hearing when we are trying to mandate something else on them and they do not come in and testify against it. I think the sooner we take over probably the total operation and that is apparently what they want, it is going to happen faster if we continue to erode their authority base. I think this is a bad precedent. I think it is a precedent that we are going to regret. I think it is a precedent where we are seriously challenging the future of public education and I urge you very strongly not to support this bill.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE PRESIDING

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we have consumed a good deal of time on this bill and I am sure that the issues are clear in everyone's mind. I did wish to make a clarification to clarify a matter that was raised earlier in debate between Senator Frank Lewis and I. I did check the Legislative Journal with respect to my own record on the check off programs and I have never supported a legislation which would have required a mandatory check off. I did, in fact, vote against the corn check off bill last year and the main reason I voted against the corn check