

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, Senator Johnson has offered amendments on behalf of Ross Rasmussen of the School Board Association. The amendments are to give some flexibility to class 1 schools. That's the basic purpose of it. We have always had the issue of free high tuition here and everybody knows it for the last dozen years. That's a local accountable receipt and deducted from state aid. We've always identified that as a local accountable receipt. Again, I think we're moving towards the possibility, Senator Johnson, with all due respects, and I say that with a great deal of humility and admiration... with all due respects this is to create another loophole. This is to create another loophole. Let somebody out. The bill was carefully drafted last year, and that special session I know the administration took a lot of time to draft that bill. Senator Keyes worked for hours and hours on that bill, and it was heavily scrutinized by Senator Dworak. I was absolutely satisfied when that bill passed this body with some great speed that all the homework had been done. I fail to comprehend why we would need any changes. I think the bill is excellent the way it's written. It's very concise. It gets to everyone, which is what we wanted to do. I oppose any attempt to alter, amend and change, as I believe was said on the floor last June, this historic piece of legislation that's going to be the salvation of Nebraska. Now I don't know if Senator Johnson has conferred with Senator Keyes, the author of this bill, or with Senator Dworak, the author of LB 1, but I know... I know the seriousness that went into the research on that bill. I know the concern that went in on the research on that bill. That was a bill to help the people, and certainly not to help any political purpose, and I know Senator Keyes had been my senator before I got down here, and he wouldn't stoop to those kind of things, and you know Senator Dworak's not that way, and certainly the Governor wasn't doing that with that intent, so Mr. Chairman, this is like the Koch amendment, I think we ought to just leave the bill like it is, and if we're going to live with it, we live with it a year and let it go at that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, it's seldom I disagree with my distinguished colleague, the former Chairman of Education, but he did rather confuse the Johnson amendment. It's not a loophole for class 1 schools. It really is providing the receiving school, which in this case would be the Broken Bows, the Burwells, the Ainsworths, the Lincoln Public Schools, and others, some protection against those nonresident tuition fees,