

many areas of our state are congregate meals planned for the elderly. One of the advantages to making use of the school bus would be that persons who live farther than walking distance to a congregate meal center could use the school buses in that area. I think the example used by Senator Haberman that someone might become ill on a bus is a possibility but it is also a possibility that the person riding that bus could well be a school child who may have diabetes and go into a diabetic coma. That, too, is possible in a twenty minute bus ride. So the emergency would not be an everyday occurrence but would be a true emergency. Do not make it impossible for groups to go to the congregate meals through this vehicle by adding this very restrictive amendment to the proposal. For that reason I am requesting that this be stricken from the amendment so that each section will be voted on separately.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Remmers, did you want to speak to the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I voted to bring the bill out of committee rather reluctantly because I do not support the idea of using the school buses in that manner because there are a lot of problems involved. I did do some checking. We have thirteen schools in my legislative district that run buses. One of the schools contracts with a firm out of Kansas City so they are not involved and I did not contact the two very smallest ones. Of the other ten, seven said they opposed using school buses. One supported it and two were neutral. Besides that I have visited with other superintendents and they were very much opposed, and I particularly want to refer to a letter that I got from Gene Lavender, Superintendent of Schools, Norfolk, and he was very much opposed to the idea of using school buses in this way because there are many, many problems involved. I have had quite a bit of experience in this area myself and I know that there are problems and I don't think it is necessary to go into them but I cannot support the bill if the amendment to the amendment is adopted. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers, do you want to talk to the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I understand the concerns that Senator Remmers brings up but I would simply point out to the body the way that the bill is drafted is permissive and not mandatory. The language on page 7, line 11, says, "The school board or board of education of any public school district may enter into a contract..." I would suggest that if the school boards that Senator Remmers had talked to