

that are not in favor of this won't enter into a contract, as a matter of fact, because it is their decision. I think Senator Marsh pointed out very eloquently some of the problems involved on the local level. I would just point out how it affects 110 in my district. Alma, Nebraska has a senior citizens center where they provide lunch to the senior citizens in that area five days a week. Alma is a relatively small town with about 1100 population. There is a hospital in the town as a matter of fact, and it seems to me that there would be nothing wrong if the Alma School District and the county which runs the senior citizens center in Alma would choose to enter into a contract or an agreement to use those school buses rather than purchase a van or other form of transportation to pick up those people to take them back and forth to dinner. Now I don't see anything wrong with that. I don't see anything wrong with us allowing the local people that decision as long as it is permissive. I would certainly object if we had the word "shall" in there instead of "may", but since it is "may", it seems to me that we should pass this amendment as Senator Marsh has indicated and allow those people to do it.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler, did you wish to speak on the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, as one of the cosponsors of the bill I guess I decided maybe I should talk about the amendment and the bill. The reason the bill is before this Legislature, the reason that the concept of, and I think Senator Vickers pointed out, we are talking just permissive legislation, the reason that this is before the Legislature to allow school districts to make their buses available for senior citizen programs is because there has not been adequate funding for other types of transportation for senior citizens, that the handibus programs that are established are not distributed across the state, that there are not the resources provided to local or state level to provide that sort of system. So what this bill provides is an option for local transportation because we have not provided enough funds for a separate senior citizen program. But I think at issue with regards to the committee amendments and Senator Marsh's amendment is whether or not these school buses should be used for just intermediate transportation or summer only transportation or whether they should be available year around. I think that that is the choice that is before you. I think if we go with the committee amendments we have severely limited the use of this bill and essentially indicated that transportation could only probably be available to senior dining sites during the summer months when the weather is good and transportation may not be as large a need or in fact that probably the