

at this particular time. If we can believe half of what we are hearing in the halls, there will be no effort made to repeal the lid this year, no effort of any consequence to perhaps modify the lid. So, due to the tremendous increases in fuel costs, costs of vehicles, maintenance, insurance and other related costs, transportation now determines a very considerable part of a school district's budget although it is only indirectly related to the instructional program in the school district. Mr. Speaker, I would move that LB 498 be advanced to E & R initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb, do you wish to be heard on this bill?

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to call your attention to the ramifications of this bill. This is taking the lid off of part of the school budget. I think routinely in recent years we have resisted all attempts to take the lid off of one segment. We did at one point exempt fuel and fuel is still exempted from the lid and of course fuel is part of the transportation costs but I think we're faced with the proposition here that if we start chipping away at the lid, where do we stop? And it's a philosophical one. Maybe we should do away with the lid completely. I don't know but I hate to see us start chipping away at one part of the lid without dealing with the problem as a whole. I come from an area of the state where transportation costs are high and it is tempting for me to vote for this because the school districts in my area are highly impacted by transportation costs but philosophically I cannot support the bill. I would come closer to supporting a bill to take the lid off completely but I don't think at this point we should start chipping away. There is no end to that sort of thing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I can understand the problem that many of the schools face, especially those in rural areas where distances are much greater than in the urban areas and the problem and the cost of transportation are proportionately greater. I think that it's a very valid discussion or point of discussion as to whether or not transportation of children to schools ought to be responsibility of the school district anymore. But I would have to agree with Senator Lamb that I would prefer to take the lid off than to poke another hole in the lid and we talked about it many, many times. The problem of the lid is one which is here. It is one which the public seems to like. It is one which the most responsible persons that know is there only for public consumption and I think that to perhaps use this bill as a method of circumventing some