

of the cost of education is to saddle some district with a considerably larger budget proposal than others would have. I know that in my own area, my own school district a few years ago they had an iron clad ruling that a youngster had to be at least two blocks from school where they would pick him up on the bus. I don't think that was any great hardship but I think there comes a point in time when we've got to be realistic and certainly when you live in the town of Bellwood, it's about six blocks one way and seven the other, we shouldn't have to have public transportation but we do and I think that maybe we would be better off to face realization that we can't afford all those luxuries and let a few of those youngsters walk a short distance than to relieve this pressure in this manner. I know there is going to be pressure and I know there is going to be some real tough decisions that will have to be made but I think that in all fairness the cost of transportation has become such a very large part of the cost of education that we need to realize what it is, we should not exempt it, we should, in fact, accentuate it and ask our people if they really think it is worthwhile. So at this time, although I'm sympathetic with Senator Barrett and I know the problem is very real in the rural areas, I think it would be a mistake and I just can't support the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to Senator Barrett, my good friend and I, Senator Barrett, understand the problem that you are trying to address but as Senator Lamb and Senator Schmit have both said before me, we keep poking the holes in lids and eventually we don't have any and I think that is what is being attempted here. Once again, we have in the Revenue Committee tried desperately hard to prevent further exemptions to the lid and whether it is right or wrong, that has been the philosophy and I think the last election has shown that the bulk of the people are for cutting back, not expanding and this certainly would be an expansion. I do not know what it would do to my own school district but I know it would be some increase without any question as it would to all districts that bus the kids. I think that it is a wrong approach. If you want to make an approach, let's come right out front and say let's do away with the 7% lid rather than try to hide it behind something of this note. I am opposed to it and would certainly urge you not to approve it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.