

is do we really believe in student councils, student government and there is a question in the mind of school board members whether or not they can legally have a student representative on that board or several. I have personally witnessed school boards that have student members presently and I will use school District 66 as an example. They have one student from each of the junior highs, that's three. They have one from each grade level, Grade 10 or the senior high. They are placed on the agenda on a monthly basis and there is a person who is selected to speak to the school board on the agenda on the items which are important to the students as they relate to the general conduct of the school system and they in turn, do not sit in on executive sessions at all and once they have made their report they are free to leave and do not have to go through the enduring efforts of the total school board business and agenda. These students are very bright, very articulate and very perceptive and oftentimes I believe they can help a school board to make a right decision when they are not getting the input from that person who has a property right which is an education in that system. I would hope that you would not today carelessly throw this bill aside. If you believe in student councils, if you believe in student government and you believe in young Americans today like I hear you often say, politically or otherwise, that they are responsible and can make good decisions then I think they deserve the right to permissively sit as a member of a board providing that board so desires. It is still left to the individual boards and I agree with Senator Wesely, if you want to get the young people involved in action as it relates to decision making there is only one way to do it. Let them observe, let them participate. They don't have voting power but at least they would have a voice and they certainly cannot do anything that would damage a school board nor its decision. In fact, they might help some boards in making decisions properly in the best interest of those who are being educated.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Goll. Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I can't see why we are all excited about this particular piece of legislation since it is the option of that local school board. I see nothing wrong with letting that school board putting a student representative on there if they desire. I think it could be a very positive thing in helping to manage and operate a school. Now this doesn't mandate it in any form and if some school boards are uncomfortable with the concept, fine. Sobeit.