

of the cost of the driving. Now if parents do not drive their children to these schools, then the school district is required by law to bus the children. Busing to school costs the school district by reimbursing the state much more than the 21¢ per mile. In other words, the bus transportation which this parent could demand could cost more than the 21¢ per mile that the parent is getting. Just last year we passed LB 204 which increased the rate of parent reimbursement from 17¢ per mile to the same rate state employees are now paid. In other words, the mileage is all the same across every jurisdiction of state government and I know Senator Wagner worked hard on this bill and he wanted to equalize the rates throughout the state and now we are starting to have inroads upon it and I think this is wrong. I am told that this section taken at face value would save the state \$80,000 but the Department of Education is not able to project how many parents would stop driving because of the reduced reimbursement rate and thus would force the school district to bus their children at a much higher busing cost. In other words this section could very easily result in much higher transportation costs and a loss to the state. I think those facts make it clear that we are moving in the right direction. It reverses what we did this last year. It treats parents who have to take their children to other than the normal neighborhood school as second class citizens. Parents are already contributing one-third of their driving costs. They are doing their share. This section also sets parents at a fixed rate which would not go up as the reimbursement rate for state employees goes up, and finally, this section could cost the state in bus transportation more than it will save. So I don't think we are really saving any money with this bill. I know that Senator Warner felt that this might, but if you really take a look at it and where the parent could demand bus transportation, it could cost a lot more. So I support Senator Vickers amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Warner, on the Vickers amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, the concept the committee was proposing to you here is I guess is what is referred to as co-pay in other areas. The argument is not...I am not going to argue whether 21¢ or 30¢ is the cost because you can calculate that in a variety of ways but the majority of the committee felt that there was logic and merit in that the parents would contribute a portion of the cost and the state would be reimbursing them for a major portion of the cost. Senator Vickers has pointed out we reduced the appropriation by \$80,000 in order to do that. I guess the only other thing