

conciliatory bill sponsor that I've ever seen on this bill. He has an idea and I think it's a marvelous idea. And he's seen it passed in the State of Minnesota and he sees it working in the State of Minnesota. This article that Senator Haberman passed out, from Jack Kennedy's column last night, I was visiting with the lobbyist for NSEA and asked who is this person up there, and he said, don't have any idea. The association up there opposed the bill, initially. They've lived with it for a year or two, they are strong advocates for it. That's the association position in Minnesota, wherever Jack Kennedy dug this person up I don't know. But Senator Baack has been one of the most conciliatory members of the body on this. People bring him ideas and they say, we need to improve this bill, Dennis. I kind of like it, but let's do something. What does Dennis say? He doesn't say, it's etched in stone, don't talk to me, he says, sure, that's a good idea, that will improve the bill. So he's offering an amendment. Somebody else comes to him, special ed people come to him and say, we've got some concerns. He says, sure, we'll work them out, we'll offer some amendments. So now he's being criticized on the floor here because we've got too many amendments. Well, what we're doing is we're improving a bill. We're taking a good idea and we're improving upon it. And I think most of these amendments are excellent amendments. And the fact that they are coming in is more of a credit to the sponsor of the bill than deficiencies in the bill itself. These are ideas brought to him. This is the process working, this is the way the process is supposed to work. Secondly, the question of elitism, Senator Lamb mentioned that twice, the first time I let it slide by, the second time I think we've got to address that, because this bill is not elitism. Choice exists today in Nebraska. Any parent in the State of Nebraska that doesn't like the school district that their student goes to can choose to not send their student to that school district. There are three very simple methods of doing that. One is they pay the tuition to go to a private school. Number two, they hire a moving van and they move their property to another school district; or, number three, and we've got some people Senator McFarland is working with down here, south of Lincoln, they continue to live where they are and they personally pay tuition to attend a public school. We've got choice, and who is that choice for? That choice is, if you want to use the term elitist, elitist. Those people that can afford to pay the price, to either move or pay the tuition can opt out. This is choice for everybody when it ultimately is put into place. The amendment that Senator Lamb is so exercised about is an amendment to hopefully allow