

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lamb would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, I have AM0294. It is found on page 813 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, and members, it is in the Journal, if you would care to open your Journal to page 813. There are the amendments I have offered, and the first one is an amendment which would say that we will have a pilot, we will have a pilot program, start out slowly, let's have a pilot program. This would apply to, actually only apply to Douglas County. Let's see how it works in Douglas County first. Now, Douglas County is...why Douglas County? Well, Douglas County has a wide diversity of types of schools, as you well know. This is the reason. And as you will read it, such pilot enrollment option program shall begin with the 1990-91 school year and terminate at the end of the '92-93 school year. The amendment that was previously adopted by Senator Baack has a phase-in program but it encompasses the whole state. Now, when I was resisting that phase-in program, it is not because I resist phase-in programs. It is just because I think this is a better way to go experimentally, to see what happens when this system is started. In Minnesota, they had a phase-in program which had to do with sizes of districts. I continue to believe that we are not ready to start the program, that the bill is not going to be in shape this session to do it, and that we should have an interim study and decide how the program should be implemented. But if that is not going to happen, I think that we should start with one section of the state, let the program work in that section of the state, and then we would be in a better position to judge the worth of this situation in Nebraska. See, one of the big differences between the Nebraska situation and Minnesota is that in Minnesota most of the funding of the local schools comes from the state, and in Nebraska, as you know, most of the funding comes from local property tax. So you do have a different situation than you do in Minnesota. Also in Minnesota, as you have read in the many articles that have been distributed, there is a division of opinion as to whether the program is working in that state. So my amendment would merely say we start with one section of the state, see how the program works, and then take it from there.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Baack, followed by Senator