

SENATOR DIERKS: I haven't heard much from the Class I districts, mostly from the Class II.

SENATOR MOORE: Oh, from the Class II. Okay, well, that is fine. My next point was that if the Class I's were the ones opposing it, there are the ones that already have choice, because they are the ones that can go to the school district that they want to go to. Well, as Senator Dierks also mentioned that there was some concern in committee that not everybody liked this bill. Well, if that was the criteria to the only way you'd ever pass a bill is that everybody liked it, we, obviously, wouldn't get anything done in this legislative session, nor in any legislative session. Now I have been a senator for the last couple of years, I have got beaten over the head by the NSEA and other school associations for trying to bring some accountability to education in the State of Nebraska. Now Senator Baack's LB 183 does not go near as far as I, myself, would like to go, but it is a first step of providing some mechanism of accountability, because if Senator Lamb's school district has a problem and everybody moves out, there is a reason why that is happening. And I don't know, I don't think it is all Senator Baack's job to find amendments to solve your problem with the school district that everybody leaves from. We all can offer amendments, and if there is really a way to deal with the problem of these kids that remain, let's try and find a way to deal with it. I don't think there is. The only way you deal with that problem is prevent it from happening. By offering a good quality of education in that school, people won't have the reason to transfer out. I don't think once it happens there is not much you can do. Now as far as the hidden agenda for consolidation, I mean everything we have ever talked about for the last 10 years has some hidden agenda of school consolidation. We can't run around scared of that all the time and say, be like Chicken Little, saying, the sky is falling. We have to move ahead with education in this state. I am not sure in the end if I will actually support Senator Baack's LB 183. I think we deserve, him and all of us deserve, the children in Nebraska, they deserve us...they deserve the right for us to take the time to discuss it and we should discuss LB 183, and if it takes two or three days, that is fine with me because I can't think of anything much more important than education. I know smokeless tobacco sure isn't no matter how we come down on that issue. I think we should defeat the bracket motion, continue to talk about LB 183. Senator Lamb has some amendments coming up