

some problems. There are many questions that have been unanswered. How about transportation? How about special ed? How about athletes? And I could go on and on, but I like I told you earlier, I did talk to a superintendent and principal of a Minnesota school earlier this morning, and Minnesota has some problems. It isn't all rosy as has been told about here. They tell me that some of the good students have left certain school districts, and so that leaves these school districts with just the average students or the poorer students, and I just feel that school districts should operate a school for all students. So I want to see how some of this works out in some of these other states. Also our neighboring state of Iowa is considering this bill and we don't know how they will come out with it yet. Those that support open enrollment say, well, you don't want competition, and maybe this is right. I realize that everything isn't rosy in our school and sometimes you have students that graduate that you can't read their writing. They have got to carry a calculator in the hand to figure up what something sells for or what it cost, or if you even ask them a simple multiplication question. But this is a bill of choice.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me. (Gavel.) Could we have it quiet so we can hear the speakers, please. Thank you.

SENATOR HEFNER: Like I said, this is a bill of freedom of choice, and maybe this freedom of choice is that they don't like the school teacher or maybe they don't like the basketball coach or the football coach, but what I am concerned about is that a certain school district would lose enough students so that they would not be able to operate. In other words, we are coming in the back door to force consolidation and I don't think we want to do that. I think consolidation needs to take place on a voluntary basis. In the 19th Legislative District when I first came to the Legislature, we had many Class I school districts. Now we are practically without any Class I's. In fact, I think the last two in one of the counties will merge with a larger district this year. So I am real happy about that. In another case, take for instance if a school disciplines a student, parents may transfer their children to another school. Do we want that? Do we want them to be able to do this? I don't think we do. Each of us here represents a particular district. Senator Baack, if a constituent doesn't like the way you vote or the way you perform here in the Legislature, should we have a bill that they would be able to transfer to another district, to Senator Weihing's district. I don't think that would be good