

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I won't stand and talk for a long time but, you know, I just wanted to stand to clarify something that was stated by Senator Moore. I guess, in the first place, I will just tell you that I will oppose his motion. We all have bills that get hung up in committee or get killed in committee, Senator Moore, because the committee members don't like what we think are good bills and we don't all bring them to the floor based on the fact that, why didn't that bill come out of committee, and stick it on someone else's bill on Final. But I would like to clarify something here. And whether or not a school is called a Class I, a Class VI, a Class IV, or whatever, we do have those classifications of schools in the State of Nebraska. That's part of our educational system and the way it's been set up. But my clarification point will come in the part of your speech which stated that Class VI schools are known as tax havens. How you are going to change that, number one, by recalling them a regional center or a regional school doesn't make any sense to me. But, secondly, I would also like to remind you that all of these Class VI schools were not set up for the specific reason to become tax havens. In my case, the Class VI school, Adams Central in Hastings, Nebraska, which, by the way, is one of the best, and not just because my kids attended it or I lived out in that district where they went, but I can tell you historically how that Class VI came to be. I was teaching in a rural school at that time, a poor Class I, those naughty Class I schools that we still have, and my kids were being told, year after year, we don't know whether Hastings is going to take your eighth graders next year or not because we don't know whether we want them or not. And so, in desperation, what we finally had to do in that area was the rural people had to form their own school system. Thank God there was the capability to form a Class VI, because we could have been left with no alternative. So that Class VI school was not formed specifically to become a tax haven. It was formed because they didn't know what else they were going to do with their school children who were being rejected by Hastings, and that's how it came to be. And now, years later, Hastings is very sorry about that action and, of course, were working to do everything they could to undermine that Class VI. But that's for the record, the story of the Class VI in our district. And whether or not you change the name to regional or let it be retained as a Class VI isn't really important to me. But I would just remind the body we do have a class system of