

no problem with that in Central as it is or Northwest High School or Columbus Scotus in remaining as it is and I, too, felt my reason for opposing it was...or voting against it was cumbersome. We have certain classes here, the ones of us in Education know what the different classes are, hopefully so, and the same way with many of the other records and so on. It's not a big issue. It's not a big concern. Might I also say that in Grand Island, Northwest was, in reinforcing Senator Smith's statements, Northwest was forced on those Class I schools to open because Grand Island said that about 20 years ago, we don't want you anymore, we can't...we can't take you. So they had to form the school. Now Grand Island has annexed Northwest area and the taxpayers of Grand Island...the students have a choice and they are paying and paying and paying for that what was probably an error 20 years ago. But Northwest is a very fine school as far as I'm concerned, even though it isn't in...well, technically, I guess it is maybe in my district now, but it isn't. So, for that reason is why I voted against the bill in committee.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Bernard-Stevens, I am pleased to announce that Senator Byars has some guests in the north balcony. We have 20 high school students with their teacher from Odell. Would you people please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're pleased to have you with us. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Wesely, Withem and McFarland.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. Being on the Education Committee and being one of the senators that initially voted against it, I wanted to say a couple of words. Number one, Senator Smith, I think it's a little different when we...in this particular case when we talk about all of us and, certainly, I, in Natural Resources, really wanted to have LB 271 which would have made simply for an ex officio nonvoting member which would have had no effect at all and that bill was killed in committee. And, certainly, I feel that that was a good bill and should have been brought out. And I agree with you, we all have bills like that. And if the committee kills a bill that we don't want to set a precedent where everyone tries to bring their bill out because the system would break down at some point, I totally agree with that as well. In this particular case, the committee would have...we met on one day, the next day the committee came back in another Executive Session and we came back in discussion and there would have been a motion to