

of you people who have been in the body here for a few years will remember my friend Elmer Richardson from Keya Paha County and this is kind of an interesting tale. It really is the first stab at a choice bill. See, Elmer and his friends live in the eastern part of Keya Paha County which is a long way from Springview where the school is located. So those people had been, for many years, sending their high school students over to Burke, South Dakota, primarily because it was closer, much, much closer and also a good school over there and they had been paying tuition over there and you'll remember, I had a bill which...well, the Keya Paha...they wanted, Elmer and his group wanted Keya Paha County to pay the tuition instead of paying it by themselves. But the Keya Paha school had a school there at Springview and they were not about to pay tuition so I introduced a bill which said, in effect, yes, Elmer and his group could send their children over to South Dakota to high school if the Department of Education indicated that was a proper place for them to go, they got permission, and, secondly, if the state would pay the tuition. And to fund this little project they had an A bill in here, I think it was about the first and almost the only A bill they ever had for \$6,000 to fund these students that logically should attend a school out of state when they are along the edge of the state. So...but over the years that's never been used. That provision has never been used, nobody has ever gotten permission from the department to transfer out of the state. Consequently, the \$6,000 has never been used. Senator Warner, at times, has tried to take that \$6,000 out of the budget. He says we don't need it in there because it is probably never going to be used, but so far we've been able to keep that money in there. But this is a little bit of history of what, as I think about it, was really the first choice bill that came before this body, or the only one I remember since I've been here, choice bill before the body. And the pertinent part of my remarks is that under that bill the state was going to pay the tab, was going to pay the tuition, was going to pay now under Senator Baack's amendment what would be a thousand or up to \$1,900 or so to send that student over to the...whatever school would be chosen. That, in my opinion, is still the better approach because we should not be penalizing the school monetarily, the resident district. And the argument against that is, well, that resident district is not going to try to improve unless you do apply a penalty. I say the penalty is, if some students want to leave that district, that's going to be viewed as a very...