

this bill and intended to vote against it in the end saying that it's been coming too soon, too fast without an understanding by the public. I commend Senator Baack for doing everything that's almost humanly possible to try to make this bill accommodating to many of the questions that have been raised. The problem, as I see it, is whether delaying it another year is really still going to be the answer, or whether I should vote against it right now. The reason that I...there are still a lot of questions that have been raised, and I think one of the most compelling still could be as to how is a school district that potentially is a losing district, or an option district, going to plan down the road? In my area there are several high schools. Many students now commonly go to other high schools via one method or another, many times private schools in Omaha. But the point being that I don't...it puts a district, at the present time and over the next five years, in a tremendous dilemma as to how they're going to plan. Are they going to be losers? Are they going to be gainers in this process? What do they do? It takes quite a while to get bond issues planned, it takes quite a while to understand if they are going to need additional room, or are they going to need less. And I think the most serious question is, are we going to have an exodus of students from our district, even though we think we are doing a good job? Here again people may leave for other reasons than just education. It may be more convenient or what have you, especially in an area like mine, which I think is typical in eastern Nebraska. So whether delaying this another year actually compounds this problem for planning purposes, I'm not sure, or whether at this time I would vote to delay the bill, perhaps bracket it another year and let people find more solutions, or at least more answers to some of the questions that have been raised, seeing as how this really has only been discussed about three or four months, at least from a public discussion standpoint. So I will let it rest at that point. I am kind of inclined perhaps to maybe vote for the amendment, but I still probably will vote against the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please, followed by Senator Moore, then Senator Withem.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be very brief. There's not very often that I disagree with my good friend, Senator Coordsen, but I will disagree a little bit on a couple of comments that he made. Number one, I guess I would like to ask philosophically that if we agreed with the Hefner