

contemplation. That does not even take into account that when this bill passes, and I would hope that it would pass, but when it passed, we now have from the passing point or the signing of the bill we have the entire three-quarters of a year left before the next school year starts, which is another long time period. There is a very programmed, slow implementation and study. Not to mention that during this slow implementation and study period there will be two groups going out and looking at all the data possible. The amendment that I had that was incorporated into Senator Baack's amendment yesterday, calling for the Department of Education to look each year at all the questions that were being posed, and giving us data, and the Schellpeper amendment that was agreed to calling for the Education Committee to go out in the state and actually look at what is happening,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...all of that is going on, which is more study than we've done on any particular thing that I'm aware of. So I think the Hefner amendment simply is not necessary at this point and I would urge the body to reject the Hefner amendment. And I thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, LB 183, we've discussed a great deal. We've amended this bill a great deal. Senator Baack and Senator Withem and Senator Bernard-Stevens, primarily due to the NRCSA organization, the small rural high schools, some problems they have, we've worked a great deal on this bill and there is no doubt in my mind, and probably in the opponents mind, the actual opponents mind, we've made a bad bill better. In theory I still sit here and agree in total concept with this bill. But I am scared to death how this bill is going to work in reality and I am scared to death how it is going to affect rural districts. Senator Bernard-Stevens says what does a year buy us? Well, as we all know, we've all heard that in Minnesota there are 700,000 students in that state and only 400 of them have actually opted for choice. But the fact of the matter is this has not hit home on the small rural schools yet up there. In answer to Senator Bernard-Stevens question, what does another year buy us? It buys us a look on what it actually does in the rural areas, what it's actually going to do there, because we don't know. As Senator Withem and Senator Baack and