

do that. But the educational opportunity for my sons is much greater in Kimball, because there are a lot more courses, a lot more opportunities for them in Kimball.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Okay. Again, I guess the heart of this issue is opportunity, not quality. So while I think we're working toward quality of education, it appears that whether it's a basketball program or a science program, I think that is the heart of this issue, whether I can get a better opportunity to play on a state championship team or to receive a better science background than I would get if I was going to another school district.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper. The question has been called by Senator Schellpeper. Five hands, please. I do. Those in favor of ceasing debate please vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Dierks, would you care to close on your amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: I seem to have a malfunction. There we go. Yes, Mr. President...Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I do. I appreciate some of the conversation, especially some of the facts brought out by Senator Rod Johnson. We do need to talk about quality of education. We have talked about it. And the assumption has been made that there may be less than quality education going on in Nebraska. I think that I would have to argue with that. I've served on a school board for a number of years and I don't think that any school board members that I know would purposely try to provide less than quality education. Senator Johnson also touched on the fact that it will affect Class II schools. That is true. I have a number of those Class II schools in my district and I think that it will have an impact on them, and I think that those people are especially cognizant of the necessity for quality in their educational system. I think that every one of them try very hard to provide that, I don't take any issue with that at all. I do take issue with the fact that there has been the suggestion that we do have less than quality education out there because I don't think it happens. I think that the scores that our children score on these ACT and SAT tests are indicative of the quality we provide, educationwise, in Nebraska. We have a work ethic in