

all. It was simply to say, what is on the table, what does it look like, are we satisfied with it, and we had that particular type of consensus. So it wasn't one of those deals where, as a matter of fact, the only concession that I made was that I agreed to take Senator Smith's desire to have a \$20 million funding level and attach it to what I was originally going to offer, and the other people in the room that had some of these concerns said, well, gee, their concern was being addressed by virtue of my amendment, and if my amendment got on, there wasn't any real need for theirs because the concern was being addressed. That is the kind of a meeting it was. It wasn't any thumbscrews trying to get people to come in with a specific number and no one who left that meeting wasn't free to offer an amendment or address things on the floor. So, I think that needs to be understood. Senator Lamb's comments about this being a strictly urban bill is crazy. It is hogwash, and if he thinks that every bill that does not fall under those categories...

SENATOR LAMB: I object, Mr. Chairman, it is not crazy and it is not hogwash. I object to those terms being used.

PRESIDENT: Just a moment, this is a kindly, friendly meeting. You may proceed.

SENATOR CONWAY: Okay. It is not a strictly urban bill. We do have strictly urban bills. We have strictly rural bills that do come up from time to time. LR 2 and LB 361 is a strictly rural bill. We have a bill coming up a little later this afternoon, it is strictly an urban bill. I don't think this is, in my mind, a strictly urban bill because the bill is an incentive. It is to try to get all people up. Now you may find more urban entities, more densely populated school districts currently in a position where they are going to have this premium opportunity that they can reach and get to very early, but the incentive is there that that pool of money is not any larger, and anybody who wants to come up to that level that can qualify can have a piece of that particular pie. So we are in a situation where it is not focused there. It is meant to be an incentive. One of the problems I had with Senator Smith's amendment in terms of bringing that level down was that this wasn't intended to be a pot to reward people for where they are. It is intended to be an incentive to try to get people to reach up to these levels and come up into a competitive level. That does not make it a uniquely urban situation. As I look down my school districts, I