

no opposition. Senator Wesely's amendment I think is a positive step with regard to the issue of asbestos and other hazardous materials. This is a serious problem nationwide. The State of Nebraska, because of efforts such as 706 and Senator Wesely's amendment, finds itself really in the forefront with regard to these problems of hazardous materials and abatement of them. We are far ahead of everyone else and we are still way behind where we would like to be. So I would urge you, wholeheartedly, to support Senator Wesely's amendment to 706 and then to move 706 over to E & R Final. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Withem. Is Senator Hefner here? Senator Withem, why don't you proceed and we will catch Senator Hefner.

SENATOR WITHEM: Be happy to, Mr. President. Simply to add to what has already been said about this amendment by saying that Senator Wesely originally had a bill in front of the Education Committee which would have accomplished what his amendment is accomplishing here. The committee did advance that bill favorably. The asbestos issue, as far as it affects schools, is a major issue and a major concern. I think every year that I have been on the Education Committee there has been another piece of legislation come in. It is my hope that this one will do it finally but I'm not holding my breath. I think the reason for that is probably because this environmental hazard asbestos problem becomes a much bigger problem each year the more deeply the schools get into it. Originally, it was just a few of the larger schools who were doing asbestos testing who discovered that they had problems. As we get further along toward meeting the federal regulations and more and more school districts are attempting to comply, we are finding what a major problem it is. I am going to be supporting Senator Wesely's amendment and would ask you to do the same.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I would have some questions for Senator Wesely if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Wesely, is this because the school