

director and the two Governor's aides out in the Rotunda had absolutely no idea why these dollars were taken out of the budget. It's \$30,000 this year, it is 15,000 the next year. It's not going to topple the budget. It's keeping a promise that we made to the citizens of Thayer County, Johnson County, et cetera, et cetera that we would help them out, that we'd provide them some technical assistance so that they would be able to look at the projected populations of their county, what the student population was likely to be in their county, what facilities that they have in their county are like so that they'd understand when they make this very difficult, painful decision whether they are going to keep their school open or whether they're going to close it. It's a painful decision to make out there and we promised those people that there would be some technical assistance for them at the State Department of Education level. If you do not override this veto, we're going to be breaking that promise to those people. I urge you to sustain the veto and if there is anybody planning on voting against it, I'd really appreciate hearing what the rationale is on why this particular veto should be sustained because I certainly haven't heard it from the Governor's Office as to why this money was vetoed and why they don't think it should be overridden.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? Objection. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: I don't think we've had a fair debate on this issue.

PRESIDENT: All right, you may speak.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I don't think that any one of these programs are particularly significant when you look at the overall budget items. I mean there's a number of major issues that we face this year and whether we put in \$30,000 this year and \$15,000 the following year, I think probably in the overall scheme of things probably won't make that much difference. But there comes a point when you have to make some decisions as to how much money we are going to spend.