

I genuinely want to see those individuals in our state that like the Class I system of education, for educational reasons and want to maintain that be able to do that. I've taken a great deal of flack in the last couple of years from my traditional friends on this issue, School Board Associations, the administrators, the NSEA. What am I doing selling out to those Class I's, we ought to get rid of them. And I stood up and I said, no, I don't want to do that. But I do want to see a tax equity sort of situation. I want to see this issue behind us. If you vote for the Lamb amendment, you're putting the bill in the shape that it will not resolve the issue, it will merely open it up again. And I'd urge you very strongly not to support the Lamb amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please. Senator Haberman, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, over the weekend and last night I have visited with approximately seven people connected with Class I schools in my district. They are, as I am, confused over the issue. They are angry over the issue, and they are saying, what about all of these changes? We don't know anything about these changes. And to us it's merely a reorganization issue, that's what's going to happen. So I tried to explain to them we haven't discussed the bill, we haven't had an explanation of the amendments on the floor. So I was here this morning and heard Senator Lamb, and I listened to Senator Withem. And Senator Withem in part of his talk, and I've heard this for the last year or two, tax equity, everybody should pay their fair share of taxes. Well that issue, to me, is separate from the issue of quality education because you hear the quality education mentioned with tax equity. What they are trying to tell me, I guess, is that without everybody having tax equity, paying their fair share, you cannot have quality education. Well that is wrong. Money does not necessarily mean that you're getting a quality education, it's what the students are being taught, how they're being taught and what they're learning is the education. Now, Senator Lamb made the remark, and I believe Senator Lamb because I have never been down here in eleven years where Senator Lamb hasn't spoken the truth. He said the rules of the game have been changed. Senator Lamb says I do not like the way the rules of the game have been changed. Well, quite frankly folks, I don't like that the rules of the game have been changed and I'm going to support Senator Lamb's amendment. Now if we can't go ahead and try this affiliation or