

today, they've been out there, the committee amendments have been out there since before the public hearing. So, with that, I'd urge you once again to defeat the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, further discussion. Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to support Senator Lamb's amendment. And I was interested in Senator Withem's comments, and maybe I shouldn't say anything because what I might say would be repetitious of what someone else on the floor of the body has said, and therefore possibly not of interest to anyone. But since 940 was passed we have done a number of things in the area of schools that have, if not complicated, at least clouded the issue a little bit with a relationship as what we do relates to 259. We have seen fit to enact the choice bill, which may well have a bearing on school structure in Nebraska. We will, I rather suspect, spend quite a lot of time during this session of the Legislature finding a way to more equitably finance K-12 education in the State of Nebraska which ultimately could have an affect upon the face or the number of districts in Nebraska. It's been held on the floor of the Legislature many times that the number of districts in the state are somehow a detriment to the quality of education. And, yet, by any measurable standard, I think this week in the paper Nebraska was fourth in the nation in the percentage of people in school that graduate from high school. Somehow a factor of the quality of our education system might...which may well result from the individualized instruction in the K-6, K-8 side for many of the youngsters that we have in our system. It's been said that we will put reorganization behind us with 259. Certainly with phase three, if it's read in plain language, would do that because it would be in effect, and I would stand for correction on this. But essentially a reorganization program, as the mechanics of every day life, would work out. It simply would cause people not to operate an elementary only school as part of an affiliation system. It wouldn't work either by the quality of education, nor the means of support. So, from that perspective I would encourage careful consideration to Senator Lamb's amendment, considering with 259 the choice bill, its impact, the quality that we have in Nebraska in our educational system, which is a tribute, I think, to everyone that is involved, and also the changes that we may quite likely make this session in refinancing of education to bring the burden, or to spread the