

have no problem with, of course, the affiliation for high school purposes and that part of 259. We have in Nebraska several problems in education, not all of which are concerned with Class I schools only. The depopulation of outstate Nebraska is having an affect upon many of our Class II, K-12 systems and some of the smaller Class III's to the extent that I know there are conversations between districts as to ways that they might consolidate their effort in one unit and provide hopefully a greater variety, if not a higher quality of education, to the high school students within that district. Normally within that particular conversation there is a great deal of concern, and mostly I think it relates to the space, the area, the distance between towns as you move west in the state, and an interest in maintaining an elementary school in a town where there is currently today a high school, and some assurance of the ability to maintain that school. It would appear that as phase three moves in, if we adopt the committee amendments as presented, that it...since in many cases the cost per pupil is a function of the number of students within an educational system as well as the programs that are provided by that system, that there will be quite serious restrictions on small schools in that. If their cost per pupil is greater than that of the total affiliated district, then they will have to pay an additional levy to pay that particular cost of services. There has been some comment about the larger districts that have a number of "satellite schools" within that, elementary and certainly school systems that have a number of high school buildings within that. Is the level of educational achievement and opportunity always equal between each of those? From what you read in the paper, probably not. And in closing I would like to ask for clarification because I may not be understanding phase three right. A question of Senator Withem, if he would. Senator Withem, after 1994, if an affiliated district would contain two schools, and if the elementary per pupil cost of the district is, to choose a figure, \$3,000, and the cost of education of the students in the smaller school...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...was \$4,000, would the smaller school, the affiliated school have an additional levy to make up that difference?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes,...