

You know, it has worked well for a long time and in most cases those people, those Class VI's and Class I's that are affiliated currently with Class VI's are not messed with. In other words, people say you've got a system, let's let it stand. Now with this, unless we adopt Senator Schmit's amendment, if some other Class I would decide to affiliate on the basis of this new bill on 259 with that Class VI, then that throws them all into this new turmoil that we're talking about which is the common levy, distribution of the money among school districts for budgets, a whole host of complications that I don't think we need. You know, I certainly would support Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The member from Hastings, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't speak on the Lamb amendment, although I was tempted to a couple times to put my light on, then took it back off again, and then when I decided I was going to speak it was too late, but I could have given you a definition. When we talk here about equity in education, and I'm glad that Senator Haberman was able to bring out the fact that in many cases for a lot of people it comes down to the dollar sign when we talk about equity rather than quality of education. I think that I could have as an old school teacher, and I literally mean that in many ways, but I was a teacher of many years ago and for a number of years, and I can tell you that there is a heck of a lot of difference between the physical plant that your Class I kids basically enjoy versus someone, for instance, who is an elementary student in the City of Hastings since we're talking about Hastings in Adams County this morning. And yet those kids came out of those Class I schools with an education that was at least equal to and in my cases superior to many of their counterparts in the city system in Hastings because I can tell you and I am very proud of the fact that many of my kids were valedictorians of their classes when they went on to other schools. So there is something else we have to take into consideration when we're talking about equity here and that is the reason I voted the way I did on that issue that Lamb brought to us because I can see and I understand totally that when you have a high school student who is going into another system, which is all they can do when all we have left for Class I schools with the K-6 or 8 or whatever it happens to be depending upon the district that they're in, they only have one option and that is to go on and affiliate with someone who has a K-12 or as a Class VI school is, 7-12