

identity. They're going to hire their teachers. They're going to determine the salary of their teachers. They're going to determine what the curriculum is. They're going to set policy for their schools. And they're going to keep their schools open. And that is what we've been told by the people that come down in the buses is their ultimate objective. With this bill we do that. Without the tax equity provision of the bill all you have, Senator Lamb, all you have is preservation of the status quo, calling it something else, calling it affiliation. Frankly, you do have a little more permanence built into the system that you don't have today, that would be one advantage, but it's not an ultimate compromise. Compromise maybe is not possible on this issue. I used to think it was, maybe it's not. But I think we, as a Legislature, can forge a middle ground that maybe neither side is 100 percent comfortable with but that is workable and we can live with. Without this particular provision, this tax equity provision, frankly, I think we're left back to our two extreme positions, either merge them, or you totally leave them alone. That system has wreaked havoc, that debate has wreaked havoc in our education system, we need to get it behind us. But if this amendment goes, it's not behind us, it's right back out here on the table again. So I would urge you not to support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there is a far-fetched, but at the same time illuminating analogy to this situation, and following the seven days war in the Middle East tensions were high. President Carter wanted to bring peace to the Middle East and he asked the Israelies what it took to have peace in the Middle East, and the Israelies said, well, the Arabs have to acknowledge...the Egyptians have to acknowledge that the, I believe it was the Gaza Strip is ours. We can then talk about peace in the Middle East. We flew to Sadat, and Sadat said, and we said, what does it take for peace in the Middle East? And Sadat said, it will require that Israel return the Gaza Strip to us, then we'll talk about peace in the Middle East. We went back to Israel and we said, Sadat says they have to have the Gaza Strip before there can be peace. Israel says, you don't understand, we've been attacked, the tanks were here in this area, we have to have the Gaza Strip or there's no peace without it. We fly back to Egypt. We say, you know the Israelies said that you used the Gaza Strip to attack Egypt.