

have all sorts of time to effect a total affiliation system for the purposes of tax equity, whatever that definition might be. So I would suggest that to adopt LB 259, as it currently exists without the Lamb amendment, may well be premature as far as insuring quality of education for our children, and that a better course would be to adopt the Lamb amendment, to proceed with the bill as it exists and put in the high school affiliation, which will achieve that tax equity. And then should that work, without problems of educational equity, then at some point in time in the future to move into the total situation of total tax equity within an affiliated district. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I've heard here today quite a little bit of discussion concerning tax equity and some concerning local control, but very little until Senator Coordsen spoke about quality of education. The Class I districts, I think, have been known for years to offer a very distinctive quality education. My experience as a school board member, in the Ewing school system, was that during the 15 years I was on that school board those students from the Class I schools were the valedictorians and salutatorians, I'm sure, 80 percent of the time. And this may not mean much to you, except if you figure that we had roughly 40 nonresident tuition students there compared to roughly 95 to 100 students in the high school. So...and maybe 130 at some time. So, really percentagewise quality of education is there in those Class I districts, there is no question about that. People are interested in those Class I districts because they know they provide quality education. I have to be concerned about this legislation because in my legislative district I have between 60 and 70 of these Class I districts that are still functioning. It's a very vital part of my constituency. I'd like to ask Senator Withem a question, if he would please respond.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Certainly.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Withem, when you were deliberating the different phases of LB 259 and you got to phase three, were there any alternatives for financing that you discussed or