

April 5, 1990

LB 960, 1059

withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. It is withdrawn.

CLERK: The second amendment as well, Senator?

SENATOR LAMB: Yeah, the second, too.

SPEAKER BARRETT: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to return the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I filed the motion just...wasn't planning to do so. I would have supported, happily supported Senator Lamb's first amendment that he filed yesterday had we got to it. I think maybe he makes a good point in needing to include people, some additional people, and I would have been happy to have done that. Unfortunately, we didn't. We have the bill before us. The reason I did file the motion was just...I said that every time that we have talked about school restructuring, I made it very clear on the floor that it has absolutely nothing to do with consolidation of schools. That is not what restructuring is about. Restructuring is the concept of looking at the way kids learn and the way in which we teach kids, and trying to find better ways of educating young people. Way, way, way, too much of what we do in this body including, including LB 1059 deals with the external issues of where does the money come from, and how big should schools be, and all of those other kind of issues. And as a Legislature, we very rarely get into the issues of what constitutes good teaching, what constitutes good learning. The 15-minute time blocks in which we place most of the school day the best way to educate kids or can we do a better job of spending a day on the science project and another day on another project? We aren't doing a very good job in this country of actually educating kids and most of our public policy debates really don't center on how can children be better educated, and that is what this bill deals with. Frankly, I don't anticipate a bill coming out of this. I don't see us coming back to the Legislature saying this is how we are going to change education. Restructuring really is a bottom-up approach, putting the emphasis back on local schools, and getting those people, the