

the situation in my district. We now have Farnum sending their top four grades to Eustis and Eustis sends their seventh and eighth graders to Farnum. This way they are receiving the benefit of a larger school. It is very economical. They are meeting all accreditation standards and it is working quite well and they would like to continue that way. As you know, we now have a policy that unless they maintain an average daily attendance of 25, they cannot remain accredited. Well Farnum this year has an average daily attendance of 24.3. Now if you look into the future, in two years from now they will have an average daily attendance of 30 and in 1993-94 it will have an average daily attendance of 32. It's kind of interesting, the Farnum school team used to be Greenbacks, and the school name for Eustis used to be the Tigers. So this year they combined their athletic programs and they are called the Tigerbacks, but I understand next year they are going to be called Knights. But this system has worked very well. It allows two school systems to operate as one and still maintain their separate identities and still gives each school system the best of both worlds, and it makes sense to me and I hope that the body will adopt this resolution, or this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Discussion, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Baack, members of the body, Senator Schrock did indicate that this was an amendment that was placed on the bill LB 698 when it came from committee. He also indicated it was approved by a voice vote. I did not support it. I forget exactly the mechanics of the vote. I guess we didn't take a record vote on it. I did not support it and would urge you not to. It's probably not the end of the world necessarily if this is adopted, but I guess I'd ask you to think about what you're doing when you do this. In essence, what you're doing is amending the portion of the statutes that says when a high school gets below 25 students for, I think it's three years in a row, that that school district needs to close. And I understand what Senator Schrock is trying to do. He is trying to encourage the schools working together and, yes, we need to do more of that. I think we did some of that with Senator Lynch's amendment here a few minutes ago and no problem in doing that, but this question of high school existing with fewer than 25 students is a fairly major decision I would say. You know there are those, I'm not necessarily one of them, but there are those that think that the 25 limit is way too small,