

which is to be carved out from all of the other families with children and given a benefit, under the law, which is denied by the terms of this amendment...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to everybody similarly situated. If the Legislature chooses to do that, then it seems to me the Legislature or the state ought to attach an A bill to pay the legal costs of the challenge to this law which is knowingly, intentionally, deliberately passed by the Legislature, knowing that it's special legislation which creates a permanently closed class. I think Senator Baack's motion should be approved. We should bring it back, strike that amendment, and you are not taking anything from these families at all. They went to District 66 and agreed to pay tuition, so you're not depriving them of anything, you just leave them with the bargain that they had agreed to.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Withem, followed by Senators Horgan and Lynch.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, I was not going to speak again, but evidently the words that I gave before were either poorly communicated, or poorly listened to by Senator Robinson, so I'd like to make an attempt, once again, to state what I was attempting to state before. I do not, Senator Robinson, recall using the word "elite" to refer to District 66. I know there's a lot of thin-skinned attitude out in District 66 about that particular term, but I did not use it in that context. And I believe when you were characterizing my words on the floor you implied that I did. What I was doing was I was paraphrasing, to the best of my recollection, a policy argument made by Senator Lamb, a few years ago, in reference to his concern about choice being something that would apply to an elite group. And I then went on to make reference to the fact that it was my opinion, at that time, that there, under the old system, there are those individuals who can take advantage of a form of choice through private schools, moving, or paying tuition, who already have that advantage. And the choice bill that Senator Baack brought us really was "democratizing" the concept of choice to a broader base of people. I think I then went on to state that, or I meant to go on to state that these group of 28 people are in that group. And I will not use the word elite, Senator Horgan has done an excellent job of telling