

us that they aren't necessarily elite individuals in the traditional sense of being wealthy. But they are privileged individuals. They are privileged individuals because their parents have, whether it's by writing out a single check from a stock dividend, or whether it's through taking on a second job, and spending their life savings, or whatever, they're in a special group because they have parents who have paid a tuition to District 66 before. And what the Horgan amendment does is that it continues to allow them...that special...that group to have that special privilege that no other students in the City of Omaha may have, or that Omaha School District may have. And, for that reason, I think it's unfair. And, for that reason, I am not going to support the Horgan amendment. I am going to support the motion to return the bill to Select File, and I will support the motion to strike the Horgan amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President, members. I just want to address a couple of the points Senator Withem made. And this, obviously, it makes it very difficult to be fair when you have a situation like you have with Omaha Public Schools trying to...trying to integrate their school system and to avoid white flight. But, indeed, 207 allows those students who have paid tuition to go to the Lincoln Public Schools and live outside the Lincoln district to no longer have to pay that tuition. So you have 11 families sitting up in Omaha who say, why is that fair? Why do they get special privilege legislation, and we don't get the same opportunity? If I lived in Waverly and sent my kids to Lincoln, and paid tuition, now I don't have to pay tuition anymore. If I live in Omaha, and send my kids to District 66, I have to continue to pay tuition. If I move out to Millard for a year or two, send my kids to 66, I don't pay tuition, I can move back to my house in Omaha and not pay tuition anymore. It's complicated and it's got some loopholes in it, and it can be very easily perceived as being for a special class of people. But these are 11 families who made the decision that 66 was an opportunity, an educational opportunity they wanted to participate in. They see other families in other districts being given special opportunities to avoid paying tuition, and they wonder why they are not allowed the same opportunities. They still pay taxes in the Omaha Public Schools. They still support the Omaha Public Schools. There is no loss of income or revenue to the Omaha Public Schools. There is no removal of white students from Omaha Public Schools. The students have