

state that has all of those products, particularly the fly part of it intrigued me considerably. I did pass out for you though just so you get an indication and a bigger picture because I think this issue of efficiency in operation of K through 12 school districts is much bigger than we're dealing with in LB 840. LB 840 is a bill that removes the inhibitions that may exist in the formula for school district reorganization but I think as we go down this path toward looking at property tax reform, reduction of property taxes, we look at the large number of school districts we have, we currently have about 296 K through 12 school districts in the state. The smallest one of those has 24 students, 24.06 average daily membership for whatever year this was and I don't see... '92-93, the Milligan School District. Guide Rock had 25 students in the high school all the way up to Omaha Public Schools that has 10,000 in the high school. Since the time that we've been talking about this issue I think there have only been about three K through 12 reorganizations. The one that Senator Schrock references, Campbell and Marquette have joined together for a school district that is barely over 50 in its high school and currently there is a school district reorganization...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...going in Big Springs with Brule, I believe. There's not a lot of movement going on. I think that the issue... there are a lot of other more difficult issues to deal with when we talk about school district reorganization. My sense is this is something we all agree needs to be done. I don't think people should get the idea that this solves the problem. There are lots of other issues that need to be addressed. I'll be continuing to approach those. I know Senator Lynch in the past, Senator Will in the past have had perhaps more Draconian methods than even I've been supporting, but we do have a problem with the efficiency of the organization of our school districts. We need to take this step. It sounds like there's a lot of agreement that we need to do this but this does not ultimately solve the problem. But I would urge you at this point to endorse LB 840 the way it's drafted and endorse the Bohlke amendment also.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Before we move to the next speaker I'd like to introduce guests of Senator Matzke under the south balcony, from Sidney High School John Herd who is the teacher as well as students, Tricia Rexroth, Michael