

them up next year after the Education Committee has had time to examine the issue and perhaps advance a bill for a complete discussion of the issue. Now if, if this amendment to strike the provisions is not adopted, I will bring specific amendments later in an attempt to mollify what I think the effects might be. I am not saying that because I think you ought to be encouraged to leave the provisions in, but to give you advance notice that just by going along and including alternative schools does not mean that we are going to end the discussion because I think that there are serious defects in the amendment if it is allowed to remain as it is now. With that, I would ask for your support of my amendment to strike, as I've noted, Sections 2 and 4 and leave that matter for another time and another debate.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Dierks would like to announce a special guest visiting the Legislature, Oleg Alexeevich Grachev is here from the Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. He is the head for the Center of Information Analysis of Basic Research, and with him from the U.S. State Department is his escort and interpreter Alan Smith. They are both under the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, members of the body, I am in strong opposition to Senator Wickersham's amendment, and Senator Wickersham just, you know rather kindly, described for the body something I certainly don't interpret as a threat, but some members might. And I say that because what I am going to say is not meant as a threat either but just as a method of explaining to the people, to the members, what is likely to happen. Senator Wickersham said if you don't adopt his amendment, then he will have a series of amendments to the amendment and we will continue to deal with this issue, which is fine. I have no problem doing that. I would point out, Senator Wickersham, you did yesterday, and I appreciate very much your pointing out to my counsel some of the problems you had with it. I passed out an amendment. Take a look at that and see...I know it does not solve what you see as a policy problem on whether we ought to be dealing with alternative schools or not, but take a look at it and see if it...it does deal with some of the technical concerns that I think you had, and please take a look at that. I would point out to the body, those of you that have an institutional memory that lasts two days or three days or whatever it was, and maybe were a little surprised because the other day when LB 658