

February 21, 1996 LB 1205

bill to pass it, let that go ahead and take place, because those of us who are opposed to it won't be able to stop it. But allow the Legislature to be in a position, based on what the bill says, to revisit what was done so that when the political hubbub and furor has passed, cooler heads can deliberate and evaluate what has been done through this so-called plan. At that point there will be the opportunity to discuss the issues that we're discussing now. We will have an opportunity to see what has happened with reference to the public's attitude toward education. I have seen offered in this state attempts to amend the constitution that, in my opinion, would not be helpful or healthful with reference to the institution of public education, and I think this bill moves in a direction that is away from ensuring the opportunity of future children to be ensured and guaranteed a chance at an education. All that Senator Withem's amendment says is that like any prudent overseers, before we allow the bureaucrats to put into practice a plan or a scheme that they draw up, they will have to pass it by the decision makers, those elected to implement policy. There are two levels at which we can look at policy in this instance. One is that...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...this plan will be drawn up; the second is whether or not the plan represents a policy that the state should adopt through formal action by its elected representatives. We are the ones with the responsibility to make those ultimate decisions. Rejection of Senator Withem's amendment is an opportunity to foist that decision on others not elected for that purpose. So I hope we will adopt Senator Withem's amendment. And, again, I want to thank him for giving me the opportunity to speak again.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Withem amendment to the committee amendment. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? Mr. Clerk, please record. Record vote has been requested.

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on pages 859-60 of the Legislative Journal.) 13 ayes, 26 nays on the amendment.

SENATOR WILL: The amendment is not adopted. The call is raised. Before we proceed to the next item, I'd like to