

ones. They persuaded enough of us to add her amendment to the bill. I think it should stay there and, as Senator Schimek pointed out, Senator Bernard-Stevens and nobody else from the hinterlands has demonstrated that people out there have more knowledge, intelligence, ability, honesty, trustworthiness, or any of the other things that they are suggesting may be lacking when a program such as this is to be put into operation. So now I would like to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a question.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Go ahead, sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bernard-Stevens, as briefly as you can, first of all, even if this amendment that you're offering is adopted, you would still oppose the bill. Is that right?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I believe so at this point, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Then I won't ask you why because you may have a philosophical position and I don't have enough time left so it'd probably cut you off in the middle of it. But if he offers it, it's false philosophy, not based in logic, not based in reason, not based upon experiences that may have happened in other places. So on this matter, I would say that Senator Bernard-Stevens is on the wrong side of the question. But that doesn't mean necessarily he will not argue learnedly and well on the wrong side of a question about which he is profoundly misinformed. He's known to be able to do that very well. But I hope the body will stick with the decision that we made, allow this experiment to proceed. Maybe no political subdivision will decide to make use of it. Maybe no circumstance will arise where we're having a special election. So to sit at point A and try to look way down the line and say what's going to happen at point B and we cannot even see clearly what is at point B is not the way we ought to legislate. This bill, in its present form, allows local control to prevail. And I think in this instance we have a good bill and we ought to hold it intact. I'm opposed to Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Clerk, item for the record.

CLERK: Well, Mr. President, Appropriations Committee will meet in Exec Session, Room 2022 now, Appropriations Committee Room 2022 now.