

SENATOR WESELY: Well, it'll depend on the situation, but as I indicated in one of the handouts, there's a \$450 per student cost difference in certain smaller districts versus larger districts in administrative overhead. And that's pretty significant I think.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I wouldn't disagree with that. But when I was looking at your handout I was just, I was just...it was a just a question of mine, do you think the same mandates have been handed down in your example, I noticed you just used one state, do you think the same mandates have been handed down to the state of Wyoming that have been handed down in Nebraska?

SENATOR WESELY: I think around us most of the states have more aggressively addressed school consolidation and I don't think they've suffered as a result, Iowa, Kansas, Wyoming.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, then the other question I had was, you're talking about K through 12, you're talking about the entire system. Now in my visits with some of the administrators or some of the school boards and people in my district, one of the real problems they have, and I'm sure that Senator Jones and some of the people in the less populated areas of the state are going to have a little problem with these five-year-old kids being transported from 6:30, 7:00 in the morning to a central location where the attitude that many I've talked to wouldr't mind so much in consolidation of the high school as they would the elementary because of the fact that some of these little kids have got a long ways to travel on some of these buses real early in the morning and getting home rather late at night, and that's one of the problems that I've, that's been brought to me, and I just wondered how you review that.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, Senator Vrtiska, in this amendment, you bring this districts together, the schools, however, have to be maintained if it means students have to travel more than 15 miles to a grade school. So in the case you mentioned of the elementary school, that's protected under this.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, you're talking about 15 miles from the town to the town. But, you know, sometimes in order to make that route they go 60 or 70 or 80 miles in order to pick up that route, which is a lot further than the 15 miles it is. They don't go directly from one town to the other if they're going to