

pick up the kids from their...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...homes. That's where the problem arises. You know, the distance is only 15 miles between the towns, but you don't go from one town to the other. You have to go out and pick up the kids where they live.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, that would be the minimum. The other thing is that if the school doesn't cost more than 10 percent above the average cost for that district, it, too, can be close. So the ones that are closer than 15 miles will be maintained if they aren't an extra expense.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, that's...but how do you determine that until you, until you go through the transition?

SENATOR WESELY: You don't. You don't know that.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, that's, that's one of the problems that I have because you're not going to be able to determine whether, in fact, there's been...whether (inaudible). You see, when I look at the fact down here at the bottom where you have schools which...where you use the formula, where they're willing to do a study. Certainly, I think that's a...certainly that's something that should be considered. Everybody should do some type of a study. And some of them have done that. I think that's...to me that's the first step that ought to be done.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Wickersham. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I do appreciate the discussion on this and I don't want to take a great deal of time on it. But I think, when we talk about the levy limits, when we talk about the budget limits that we were talking about with this legislation, the consequence of those is exactly what we're discussing with this amendment. It means that we have to talk seriously about schools being consolidated. They are two-thirds of the expense of property taxes. And if we're going to reduce costs we're going to have to look at the changes that I'm proposing. In fact, with some of these proposals that eliminate the property tax or even more severely restrict