

hear to schools is, you will cut your budget. And so, Senator Wesely, I think the dialogue has been good, and, like I said, I'm still not sure how I'm going to vote on this amendment because it's a very tempting amendment to vote on. As far as incentives, I think we have done many things in the past to encourage consolidation and restructuring. And the other thing, it doesn't always mean closing schools and busing students. We have a world of technology, we have some very innovative people, we have programs that can be combined, we can offer more programs. There are many things that you can do in many areas, and it will be different across the state. In some cases it will be a county system; in other cases it will not be. It will depend upon the situation. But I think there are many things that could be done in the area of restructuring, and I think it's important, if the Legislature expects school districts to do any kind of restructuring to save money, that we need to be able to create some policies...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...that would allow or, in some cases perhaps even mandate. I would like to think of it more that we would provide leadership in saying this is exactly what we want, if it is what we want, rather than just saying reduce your expenditures.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd be remiss if I didn't say something on this issue. Senator Wesely, I live in a Class I school district, and I guess this is the way you kind of stir up a hornets nest. I also live 13 miles from the closest town. And our neighbors to the west of us, who live about 8 miles from Loomis, put their kids on a bus, and that was their choice. We transported our own children to and from school. But we had our children home two hours a day more than those who put theirs on a bus, and it was our choice. We were about two miles from school. That Class I district serves a very useful purpose, and I think the people out there want to retain that. A few years ago the Legislature passed LB 662, and it was then put on the ballot by the citizens and rejected. And then we had affiliation. I think we're headed the direction we want to head. You'd just probably like to put it on a fast track, and I'd like to put it on a slow track and