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bill for specific amendment AM3374. (Legislative Journal page 1689.)

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized on your motion to return for specific amendment.

**SENATOR WEHRBEIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's probably not much more additional that will be said on this. At least at the point to returning to Select File, if there's questions at that time, I think I'll answer them. But everything that has been discussed is the way this amendment is. It does include Senator Raikes' amendment, it does include the extension till 2004, and the money as I've described it, which I'll go into detail more. But at this time, I think I'll...unless there's questions or other discussion, I will not say any more at this point.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Vrtiska, on the motion to return.

**SENATOR VRTISKA:** Mr. President, members of the body, I stand in support of the motion to return for the specific amendment that Senator Wehrbein talked about. I guess I'd just like to address also the issue of...it's been brought up before, on the importance of this kind of piece of amendment that would in fact do the things that we're talking about. I guess along with that, I am somewhat shocked at Senator Beutler's attitude toward this piece of legislation. As most of you know, Senator Beutler is the one that stood on this floor again, and again, and again over the years, and has talked about the small schools and how they ought to consolidate and get out of business. He and I had some dialogue two or three years ago, and he pointed out to me in my district some schools that he felt should be consolidating. And I didn't necessarily agree with it, but I understand what he was saying. Now he's taken a different turn, and says, we shouldn't help these people. But you have to understand, it does cost some money to do these things. And it does cost some money to do these things. And we agreed at one time through legislation to assist these schools in trying to, in fact, do a unification-consolidation effort. And I would think that Senator Beutler would be supportive of that, because that was his indication on numerous occasions, that they ought to be looking that way. And I'm surprised that now he would all of a sudden say that it's a bad idea and we shouldn't in fact do