

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 12, 2004 LB 172

I'm going to try to keep it in. Are there enough senators to vote against Senator Foley's proposition? Probably not. And it's not because they have thought it through and support and agree with Senator Foley's arguments. There are people in their school...on their school boards or in schools in their district who may have trickled a call or two to them, so they want to be quit of the whole issue. There are far more letters that you will get saying, do not consolidate school districts, huh? Do not force merger. But my colleagues don't stand on the floor and say, I've got this thick sheaf of objecting letters; therefore I will vote against mergers or all consolidation. Absolutely not. As I've said on many occasions, many people don't have enough information about an issue to entitle their opinion to any serious consideration. It is generally stated that everybody is entitled to an opinion. In one sense that may be true, meaning that in this country even the most idiotic notion can be expressed and you can call that opinion an opinion and say a person is entitled to express silliness. But if we're talking about serious matters, then not everybody is entitled to express an opinion during that serious discussion. Not all opinions expressed are worthy of consideration. A practical politician, Senator Loudon, considers the source and knows what weight...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to give to opinions that are expressed. Some of the opinions that were expressed on the floor this morning were just so much fluff. The real thing we're looking at is abortion. The reason Senator Foley said he wants to get a vote on the public record is not because we're talking about mandates or anything else, but on the issue of abortion. That's what he wants, that's what he's trying to force a vote on, and those who haven't picked that up simply have not been listening or don't understand how this Legislature operates. But I listen and I do understand and I'm going to fight it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek on the reconsideration motion.