

today. They are not little individual kingdoms out there doing anything they want to. Finally, if there was any credence to that paranoia, if there was any credence at all to that paranoia, you have got to understand that since the ESU system is part of the school system of the State of Nebraska, they are already under the Department of Education through the State Board of Education. If the State Board of Education wanted to make some particular changes or recommendations for changes, they could do it without the study. They could already do it. But the fact is they have not. The fact is they have not. So I think that to recognize that 4 members appointed by the State Board is still only one-third of the total, so they are certainly not going to be able to be the majority and, secondly, that those 4 members shall be appointed from the general public. I think...so what you are really saying, what Senator Lamb is really saying is that as it is structured right now that 4 members would be from the Legislature and 8 from the general public. Now, what he is changing that to is 4 members from the Legislature and 6 from the general public. You are not taking any people off of the task force or the study committee that might be Department of Education folks because they are general public people. So I would urge you to reject the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN PRESIDING

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. Speaker and members, I also rise to oppose the Lamb amendment to the Vickers amendment. I don't think that we are going to run into any problems of this committee being stacked. You know, we have got those 4 members from the general public that the State Board gets to appoint. I think that we have been working on this thing and trying to work out a compromise on this thing for several days and I feel like we have got a good compromise committee worked out here. I think that one of the things that I feel like needs to be stressed in this whole study is this role between the Department of Education and the Educational Service Units. Under LB 994 a few years ago, we put the Service Units under the Department of Education. They had not been in that position before, and I think there has been a certain amount of resentment built up between the ESUs and the Department of Education, and I think that we need to have this input from the department on this task