

SPEAKER: All right, very good. Now we have Senator Barnett's amendment to the amendment which is before us and we're speaking on that now. The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis. That's only the Barnett amendment that we're speaking on now. That's to delete or add the words, excuse me, to delete the words, United States of America. First put it back in, excuse me, very sorry.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. First of all, I would certainly support Mr. Barnett for wanting to retain, we may send children to any institution in the United States of America. I think that we are maybe a little misled about what type of education we're talking about and what type of child we're talking about. This is highly technical, highly specialized training. This might be, we'd only have two or three cases of this particular type of child in the State of Nebraska. Senator Savage can attest to the fact that one of the witnesses at the committee hearing pointed out that her child had not only one physical handicap but two or three and there is just not that type of training available in this State and it is so costly to set up an institution for two or three children that we're better off to combine with other states in trying to offer services rather than have a duplication of service within one state. I think it's fine where we have a number of students that justify us setting up our own schools and providing the much needed training but I think it also is imperative that we retain the flexibility to provide highly specialized services for children with very, very serious and difficult problems that are unique where we can combine with other states to provide that kind of service. I think in the long run it would be less expensive for us, the program probably would be better for the children and I think we would be making a very, very serious mistake to limit the training of these children to just those institutions that we're able to establish within the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit, are you passing?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature.

SPEAKER: We're still speaking on the Barnett amendment to the Carpenter amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I rise to support the Barnett amendment for the reasons given by Senator Lewis. I think it's important that these children be allowed to take advantage of whatever training is available, wherever it's available in the event that they have those disabilities that cannot be handled locally. I'd like to comment also that I think that this type of amendment will encourage the local districts to do those things that are necessary to provide the facilities that we need within those school districts. I have a number of children in my district who have a variety of handicaps and these children go to a number of schools. I think it is a disgrace that parents have to shop for training for these children and I think that it is high time that we did what has to be done by a statute to encourage the local districts to provide those facilities that are necessary for these handicapped children. If we allow them to choose whether or not they provide this service, they're not going to do it. They have not done it in the past and they will not do it in the future and I want to commend the Omaha School District for providing those facilities they have provided down there. I have a number of children from my district that are attending those facilities and doing very job. They're getting along excellently. Previously they were not getting those, that training at home and I am embarrassed that we have not provided that for them and I want to say that if the Barnett amendment will do it, then I support it and I would encourage you to adopt it.

SPEAKER: Chair next recognizes Senator Stahmer. Speaking on the Barnett amendment to the Carpenter amendment. Senator