

(Start of Belt #5)

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to support Senator Waldron's motion and I, too, am concerned and have been concerned for quite some time as to just what exactly the scope of operations of the Educational Service Unit was intended to be. I recall that when we passed the Educational Service Unit bill that then Governor Morrison hailed it as the greatest single piece of legislation, I believe, in this century and I have been somewhat disillusioned by what is going on. I recall one meeting of the Board of Directors of an Educational Service Unit, not mine, where the only piece of business transacted in the meeting was to practically double the salaries of all those concerned in the staff and administration of the Educational Service Unit. Since then, we have received many brochures from the Service Unit in which they proclaim or they engage in a self-laudatory effort and business to show how much money they are pretending to save a school district by buying and selling and buying at a reduced rate and furnishing these matters to a school district. I was kind of taken in by this for a practice until I discovered that in most cases the school districts were not getting any bargains by buying through the Educational Service Units but could have bought it cheaper, cheaper if they had gone out on the market themselves.. Now, this is a ridiculous situation. It's a fraud on the taxpayers and I think it is about time that we set up some total and complete guidelines of what the Educational Services functions are suppose to be. What they are set up for and what they are going to do and what we are going to let them do. So, I want to support this.

SPEAKER: Is there further discussion. Senator Hasebroock.

SENATOR HASEBROOCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the Waldron amendment. I think it is time that we do something in regard to the Educational Service Units. I think they are getting clear out of their intended field and I think its time we put a curb on their activity. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I don't like to speak more than one time on any bill but I, too, would like to say here that the Educational Service Units are given some guidelines under which to operate and operate that way only and if they can't meet these and do this, certainly we don't need them doing what they are doing now. They are at the end of their mill levy, most of them, and they are hunting for new money. Now, I don't know whether Senator Waldron's is the right approach to do it or not. My intention is that it is not the correct approach, that this is not the bill to cloud up with this. That we ought to have the Education Committee either study of them as I did one year and I found out that they are a loosely knit uncontrolled organization, spenders of taxpayers money. Now, the best thing we can do is probably kill this today and have the Education Committee come out with a bill and let's do something about them and let's really do what is right by them.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR RICHARD LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to support Senator Waldron's amendment. I've had quite a lot of complaints on this particular issue and a lot of people have pointed out to me that these people are really not guided by the statutes but that the statutes do not spell out what they can't do, then they assume they can do this. I think this provides some guidelines that are good and certainly intend to support this amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Nore.