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(Start of Belt #6)

state institutions, two of them, in the state. We have got to have several places where they can go. Now, Senator Duis, wants to have, if possible, for the people in his county to have a state school there. I'd be very happy if Sidney is a state school, 100% supported by the state. I'd be very happy if Ogallala and North Platte were 100% supported and if this Legislature wants this bill, I'd be very happy to amend it such that we will make every Educational Service Unit a state school, but I want for my community exactly what Senator Duis wants for his and this is the situation. Now then, I feel that this is a controversial bill after hearing Senator Carpenter a few moments ago. It's extremely controversial, but I'm saying this. Let's amend this bill. Let's make all Educational Service Units 100% supported by the state just as Senator Duis wants here, and I would like to prepare that amendment. So, I am in favor of what Senator Duis is doing if he makes it so that every county in the state can come under an Educational Service Unit program.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Nore, then Simpson, then Marvel.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and fellow members, I think Senator Whitney has probably explained this thing pretty well. I didn't like the way that he was abused this morning because I think he has a real good point. The whole problem here is equity. This has been a controversial issue for... since I've been here, nine years. Last year, I think Senator Duis came before this body and said, "Just give us one more year." You didn't. Well, that's what we understood, and I am not against the Cozad School. In fact, I am one of the best supporters for the retarded folks but I think we should all be treated equally and my main purpose of being on the floor this morning is to help my good friend, Senator Duis, and Senator Whitney, because I do think Senator Whitney has been unduly abused in opposing this. I think he has a real good point.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Simpson, then Senator Marvel.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, first of all I think we have two issues here that should be divided and we are only answering one of them today in that we have a Cozad School which needs a budget of like eighty-two thousand dollars. There is another issue which is not in this bill which has been brought up as to addition to the school, and I would say my interest in mentally retarded is probably as great as any and I have been a little remiss in that knowing the controversy over this school that I have not taken the opportunity to go out and visit it. I have told Senator Duis that I would help carry this school on in its present capacity for one more year and I intend to go out the last part of April and visit the school and make my commitment then as to whether I think it should be continued on beyond that. Part of my decision in continuing the one more year without seeing it has been in the fact that talking to people who are knowledgeable in the area of mentally retarded, they talk of that being a pilot project of the many experimental programs that have been carried on there and have later gone on to the other programs in the state, and I think that it would not hurt to carry on the present program as is for one more year.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I rise to support LB 336, explain the Committee action, at the same time recognizing that the sub-Committee members of the Interim Budget Committee which Senator Whitney refers to have done a remarkable job in touring the state, visiting facilities, and making recommenda-