

SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

SENATOR ANDERSON: In response to Senator Nore's comments about the responsibility that he has used, one of the Committee amendments, and this was an amendment that was suggested by the Committee, is provision of a possibility of contract with a Class 2, 3, 4, or 5 school district. This, I think, is in response to this particular statement which Senator Nore has made. This was something that came up in the Committee Hearing and I think that this a provision that is designed to answer that very reservation.

SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of the adoption of the Committee amendments say aye. Those opposed no. The Committee amendments are adopted. Are there any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: None.

SPEAKER: Now, Senator Anderson, what will you do with the bill?

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think that in discussing the amendments of the bill, we have pretty well discussed the bill itself. Basically, it is designed as a means of facilitating a change. We are rapidly reaching the point where as we look down the road we can see that the County Superintendent's office is not going to exist forever. The bill is designed to allow this kind of a change in the most humane way possible. The County Superintendent's office has played a very important, an extremely vital role in the development of the educational system in the state of Nebraska, but, of course, now we have reached a point in time where there are some counties that still have a large number of Class I school districts. Holt County, for example, has some 35 or 38 Class I school districts but we have a number of other counties where there are virtually no Class I school districts left. 59 counties in the state of Nebraska now have 10 or less Class I districts. 11 counties in the state of Nebraska don't have a single Class I district left and, of course, in terms of supervisory responsibility, this means that the County Superintendent's office in these counties has virtually no supervisory responsibility left. The situation now in these counties is that there is nothing left except administrative secretarial duties. The work load has been reduced to a very low point and in these counties we're asking for an optional means of addressing ourselves to this problem that would allow us to save some tax money and still carry out these particular duties. I would like to emphasize that this particular bill is not a mandatory solution. It is permissive. It does require the County Board to assess their own local situation and make a determination as to what the reality is. If they determine that there are a large number of Class I districts that need supervision, then they don't have to change a thing. They simply continue with what they have right now. If, on the other hand, they determine that the work load has reached a very low point where it is really an untenable situation in terms of justifying paying the supervisory salary for a person who only has one or two hours of work a day, then they can make the change. So, this bill allows managerial flexibility. The provisions of the bill, I think, have been pretty well explained as we went through the amendments. The County Board must evaluate the situation, has to decide not to continue the elected office. It has to be done at least 12 months prior to the expiration of the term in order to give everybody plenty of advance notice. The Committee amendment provides that a Public Hearing must be held before this question can be decided. I think this is a very good safeguard. The cost has been specified in the questions between Senator Whitney and myself. I think we indicated what the cost requirements are. One of the advantages of this bill is