

the lump sum money to start with. Most of them are just as hard pressed as a lot of people are in terms of paying lump sum money to start with. It is a convenience that the board does not have to pay for. The board simply says, okay, we will put this in and if it costs \$15.00 in Anselmo-Merna School District, then the teachers pay the \$15.00.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have ten seconds.

SENATOR LEWIS: It is a matter of convenience for everyone and it is not trying to impose anything on anyone.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, Senator Lamb is right on target. How many times have we heard the past four years of mandating programs on local subdivisions of government and here we are doing it again. The fact that half the schools are doing it and half the schools are not doing it indicates that the program should not be mandated. This should be a decision of that local school board and if we do not get the word "may" in here, substituted as Senator Lamb says, then we are mandating another program on local subdivisions of government. You know the fact of the matter is, and I notice Senator Lewis was very quick to bring up corn check offs, wheat check offs, et cetera, and my record is consistent on that from the beginning to the end on those check offs. I opposed mandatory agricultural check offs and most of them do have a refund provision but that is not the point. The point is we are talking in an area where there is negotiation between the union and the school board and this becomes a negotiating tool and this is another chip they can put on the table and we are taking that tool away from the school boards. That is what this is all about. It is not, Senator Vickers, whether a teacher is coerced into this or not. That is not the issue at all. The issue is between the school board and the union. That is the issue and by making this mandatory we are taking one more tool away from that management group in their negotiations with a labor group. That is where the fox is. That is what the bill is all about. They could care less about notification. They could care less about amounts. They could care less as to how many teachers are in it. That is not the point. The point is right now is when that school board and that teachers' union goes into negotiation, this becomes a negotiable tool and you want to take that tool away from one side? I think not. I urge very strongly the adoption of Senator Lamb's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, do you wish to be recognized?