

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, if you would care to refer to this amendment, and I might state at this point that one of the reasons that I have withdrawn a number of amendments that I have proposed is that you do have on your desk an Attorney General's Opinion which states in effect that there is a problem with the committee amendment in regard to that provision which would allow the patrons of a merged Class I to keep that attendance center open. Now, this amendment that I am offering at this point would state merely that if the electors of the district in the attendance site, and this is a Class I district before annexation due to the possible passage of LB 662, if these persons have reason to believe that the school board is neglecting to provide reasonable educational opportunity or is neglecting to maintain the building properly, a class action suit may be filed against them in district court. The court shall determine how conditions at such site should be improved. This is merely trying to further guarantee that if there is really a legitimate effort to keep the attendance sites open that this is a further guarantee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, did you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I, for one, will support Senator Lamb's amendment. The amendment says in essence that there is a right to a class action in the event that a school board, in a Class II, III, IV, V or VI, fails to provide reasonable educational opportunities or fails to maintain a building properly of one of the Class I's that has reorganized pursuant to 662. It is a reasonable goal. It is reasonable language. It is consistent with the goal of 662 and for that reason I have no qualms with it. What we must remember in this area is that LB 662 is a bill that seeks to enact a single principle. That principle is that all land should be in a district that supports education, K through 12. End of sentence, period. It is not a bill about closing schools. It is not a bill about new transportation routes, new buses, new buildings, country roads. It is a bill about a single principle of tax obligations by all citizens of the State of Nebraska. Senator Lamb says, if we have redistricting, we should see to it that the rural attendance centers have some protection, some form of legal recourse if they are starved to death by a malevolent school board. Fine, no problems, because I don't want to empower school boards to be able to