

SENATOR LAMB: I think that what we are talking about is the fact that big schools and little schools can do a good job of educating students but they do not have to be equal. Big schools have some advantages over small schools. Small schools have some definite advantages over big schools. It does not mean that we have to have exactly the same facilities in each of those in order to properly educate young people. It is impossible to have them equal. It is certainly possible to have them be good educational facilities.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay, the only reason I raised the question is this is obviously a sensitive issue on this particular subject separate and independent from the bill itself and I would caution you not to trap yourself.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Is Senator Beutler...Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I rise to support Senator Lamb's motion. I think it is a good one. I know of school districts already in my district alone that have consolidated. They have left the small school in that small town open. I can think of one school district in particular that has three small schools filtering into it and certainly they have battled, for a number of years with bond issues and so forth, to try and keep their small schools open in those small towns. However, they have had some difficulty in continuing to keep their schools up to par with the high school. And I am sure that is a difficult budgetary matter for a school board to deal with, but that is one of the problems I have with the bill is that, are we going to see a deterioration of those small schools if they are brought into a K through 12 school district? Senator Lamb's amendment in part is protecting those small schools from being basically let run down by the school board and I think that they should have some recourse if, in fact, the school board is not appropriately taking care of those schools. So I support Senator Lamb's motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: May I introduce some 30 guests of Senator Schmit in the east balcony. They are 30 students from Memphis, Nebraska, and their teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized by your Legislature. Incidentally, we do not allow displays of posters or displays of any kind, but we are happy to have you visit the Legislature today. Thank you. The Sergeant-at-Arms tells me that there are many