

year until such time as only the resident voters of the former common district area which operated the elementary school shall vote to cease operating the school or schools. Now they used the phrase "resident voter" to make sure that it was clear that these rights to vote went with ownership of the land. If you later bought land in what used to be a Class I, you got the right to decide whether or not the school closed or not. Now that is what is unclear about the language in 662 right now. It is not clear that the new resident still has the right to vote. The person who moves in after 662, after consolidation, but brings in two children and the question comes up, should we close the school or not, that new resident should have the right to vote. When we wrote it before it wasn't clear. The Attorney General has pointed that out to us. We simply have to look at a working model that has been on the books in South Dakota since 1968 and in a previous version from 1959, 26 years of application, 26 years of precedent. So if the notion is, it can't be done, all you have to do is look northward and find a long history of exactly this being done. It is simply a matter of grammar. This grammar is better. Let's run the new grammar by the Attorney General. Let him get out his red pencil and tell us where to put the commas this time if we are wrong. But the power to do so exists. It is clearly constitutionally permissible because South Dakota, our neighbor to the north, has been doing it for 25 years. There is no reason why we can't do it either. I accept the amendment and intend to vote for it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, again for the purpose of education which, in my opinion, always means that one has to make a statement and then repeat it and then repeat it again so that it is thoroughly understood, the amendment that Senator Vickers is offering will answer the questions that the Attorney General raised about the original language that the sponsors of the bill put in LB 662 to assure the residents of the Class I school district that they would be able to vote as to whether or not their attendance center would be closed. We simply drafted the best language we could draft at the time we wrote the amendment. We offered the amendment. The committee adopted the amendment. The bill is on the floor. The Attorney General went over the amendment at the request of Senator Howard Lamb. The Attorney General did not find