

acceptable to the Class I's and if my friend Vard and company are telling us the complete truth, that it is a taxation issue, they should accept it. However, as I say, I don't think the issue has matured enough in here yet for this amendment to be accepted or the other amendment which orders us...guts the bill and orders us to simply redo the financing system for education. And for that reason I'm not going to make the attempt now to put the amendments on. I believe just like multibank or branch banking, insurance bills we've done, these things can only be accomplished when the body is willing to accept them, first of all, and when they've educated the public enough. And so my final word to both sides from my district would be as follows: Class I's, you have to change your attitude and work to get a more effective financing system for education rather than simply be on a wartime footing mode of constantly opposing something. You are going to have to change. And to the people from Neligh and O'Neill and the schools there, I understand your problem completely, but simply waging a war to capture their property to essentially finance your kids is not going to solve the overall educational problem. So, at this point in time I'm not supporting the bill, I won't support it and I'm hoping that maybe both sides would really seriously consider working out something that leaps over this intermediate squabble of land wars or property wars and really addresses the whole picture, the whole financing system of education. So, Mr. President, I would withdraw the amendment and I'm going to watch developments and if I see an opportunity, should the bill advance, if I see an opportunity to put my amendment on or reach a compromise, I'm dead serious, I'm going to attempt it. I think the mood is here this year, if not this year, then next year to really redo it, to redo the financing system and you have to strike when the time is right and I think we're within two, three, four votes of the time being right in terms of being able to leapfrog over the whole thing and get it done. It will be hard. It's going to take cooperation from Class I's and the cities, but I think it is necessary. And, yes, there's going to be some changes just like there are big changes going on in agriculture and, yes, there's going to be some pain along the way and some school closings, but I think overall if you'll address that system, the financing of education, you'll come out way ahead of trying to simply have the Legislature decide who captures this property or that property at what mill levy.