

to a rural school. I was instrumental, I took the lead in getting the Class I closed and joined the newly reorganized Class III district. We lived ten miles from the Class III district. As I say, some of my neighbors were very unhappy with me. I was not sorry and my neighbors that were unhappy with me decided afterwards it wasn't such a bad idea. In fact I've seen many cases where the Class I's have joined with a Class II or III and after being a part of it I'm sure those parents and children would not go back to their Class I district. So I think that says something about my feeling in regard to maybe what needs to be done in the State of Nebraska. Now I'm not criticizing the quality of education in the Class I schools because I think if you check the records, the students at the University of Nebraska or any of our state colleges you will find the products of our small schools, Class I schools, hold up very well. They do a pretty good job. But I think this is a bad bill. I think that some of the things that were supposed to make the Class I schools feel better are simply a trap for the Class I schools and there are some Class III school district superintendents that are very concerned about the problems that will be created if they have to keep up these small Class I attendance centers. And I believe they are going to have to furnish transportation. You know we talk a lot about those Class I's not paying their way. I think you'll find that many cases the Class I's are actually paying a higher price than maybe their city relatives. There is one thing that they don't pay, that is not in the tax levy on the Class I's and that is transportation. There are schools, Class III's that the transportation budget is 10 percent of their total budget and of course that doesn't show up. And then of course there are some other things that the Class I's do not furnish that keeps that tax levy lower. Also I think the handout we have, I believe most of you had it, in regard to Madison County. There are 16 Class I's according to this handout. Norfolk down there has a tax levy that is lower and much lower than some of them, lower than 14, no, than 15 of those Class I's. Only one Class I in Madison County has a lower tax levy than Norfolk and yet these Class I's do not have the transportation facilities which would run their cost up still higher. The idea that these Class I people can go to court to keep their school open is also a trap. Can you imagine how many court cases we would have if you're going to try to interpret just what quality of education is? It may be constitutional. Senator Landis indicated the South