

in which a man was entitled all the prerogatives of a man. He set his own limitations. Nobody else did, not the State of Nebraska, not the Department of Education. He could climb just as high as he could carry his own weight and this bill in my opinion is not good, it's bad. This Legislature should not impose this kind of a mandate on our rural neighbors at this time. I support the kill motion. I am in sympathy with an interim study if that is the wish of this body. I believe in redistricting. I believe in consolidation. I believe in merger, but let it come voluntarily as it has been in the past few years. We've lost 130 school districts in the last four to five years.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR BARRETT: That isn't nearly fast enough for some of you, but it's coming. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would simply say that our farmers are already distressed, terribly distressed, more so than at any time in my memory. Let's leave them alone. I ask you to support the kill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Goll, then Senator Hoagland, then Senator Scofield. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I feel just as strongly that the kill motion should not be supported. I think with this particular bill we're going to get the best of both worlds and let me tell you what I mean. We're going to get tax equity. I think everybody recognizes that, a greater degree of tax equity. But I submit to you that if you look at the future realistically, that the Class I school, not the district, but the school, the Class I school is going to be better preserved under this bill than if you leave current law in place and let it play its course. Let me tell you how I see the future and after you've been to Washington, the 27 of you who went to Washington with me, tell me if you don't see it the same way. The future is a future without federal price supports. Next year 27 percent of the federal price supports are going by the way and each year after that for the next five years we're getting rid of federal price supports. Interest rates are not dropping. Volcker himself told us that. Prices are not going up. There is nothing that looks good in the future for agriculture and you and I don't want to look that in the face because it looks so bad. And what's going to happen out there is that the little towns are going to dry