

Goodrich next, then Senators Higgins, Sieck, Hoagland, then Carsten and Schmit. Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, unfortunately Senator Landis and Senator Beutler have already said what I was going to say about this particular amendment. But I'll restate it very briefly for you, what my objection is is the system in here that says the department shall, this is the Department of Revenue, shall have the power to change the percentage of funding from each of the three sources and shall make such changes based upon changes in the statewide average income and other economic factors. In other words, whatever the Department of Revenue feels like doing they shall do. They've got the authority to do it. Right above that it says the department shall have the power to change, etc. In other words what you are doing here, if you adopt this amendment, is you are turning school funding over to the Department of Revenue. Have you ever tried to get any kind of information out of the Department of Revenue? Forget it. It would be the worst place in the world you could put this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to ask Senator Vard Johnson a couple of questions, if he would yield, please. Senator Johnson, I've been getting letters from children across the state begging me not to vote to close their schools. Do you have a percentage or number of how many of these schools would be closed?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: To the best of my knowledge no schools will be closed as a direct result of LB 662.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, how many of the school children would be bused then, from one school to another?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Again, to the best of my knowledge, unless the voters of a Class I district decide to close the school by popular ballot, no children would be bused as a result of the passage of LB 662.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, then could you explain to me why I am getting these letters? I don't understand it. I thought the objection was they are closing the schools and busing the children. Would you mind.