

amendment...by an additional amendment that under those circumstances the people who live in that part of the old district where the school building is located will vote. That is known as what I would call a clarifying amendment. Well, Senator Lamb asked for an Attorney General's opinion on that amendment. The Attorney General says we can't find one case, we cannot find one case that speaks of that issue, either for it or against it, but we think it must be unconstitutional. We can't find one case, either for it or against it, but we think it must be unconstitutional. I'm going to tell you what begins to slowly make the blood rise in the veins. What makes the blood rise in the veins is that the bill's sponsors, in good faith, have done everything in their power, everything in their power to make certain that the rights of rural people to vote on their school are protected and preserved. But rural senators have simply thrown up roadblocks, have not come back with language which will improve or clarify the situation. What happens to me when I see that happen is I conclude that there is a rule or rule in philosophy operating, meaning we like the status quo, we like the tax inequities, we like things our way, don't try to affect a change. Now the intellectual honesty required at this point is this, number one, the Attorney General has said that where an entire Class I district can vote on the closing of the school, given the fact that the ambiguous language has been cleaned up by virtue of a General File amendment, that is clearly constitutional. It is only if the Class I district is fragmented or divided into more than one part as a result of reorganization, where the unconstitutional question arises. And even then the Attorney General says we don't know the answer, we are simply giving you an opinion...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...because there is not one case, there is not one case. Now I suggest that we go ahead and adopt Senator Vickers' amendment, we adopt the amendment because it clarifies the election process. If in fact there is better language that is out there to deal with the good faith effort made by Senator Landis, Lynch, Hoagland and myself to fully protect the rights on those fragmented districts, not on the intact districts but the fragmented districts, then it should be brought forward, it should be brought forward. That is known as dealing with an issue with resolve, dealing with a problem that we all know