

cost of the various operations in the various school systems. One of the things that I thought should be called to someone's attention, preferably to the attention of this body and some of the people in the area, is that continued construction during this kind of period could seriously disrupt any kind of solution that might be found to be preferable at the end of that three year period.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Schmit, the call is raised. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. I also had included originally the third and a third and a third provision but I am having that amendment redrafted with some more specific language so that this amendment deals only with the portion that says there shall be no new construction. We already have seen a proliferation of construction in some areas. Some of the concerns that have been expressed to me relative to the closing of the various schools point very emphatically to some of the rather fine new schools that have been built in the last eight or ten years and the question, of course, arises as to what will happen to those schools. Will the patrons of the various districts be required to build new schools in the central area and abandon those areas that have already been built up? I think that we ought to give an indication to the public that if we are really going to be serious about addressing the issue that there should not be additional construction offered at this time, but rather that we wait. It makes a big difference even to Class II's, III's, and the rest of them what is going to happen in the next three years because the Class I's may opt to go from one district to another and a school that thinks or anticipates, even a Class II or III that anticipates they may have some enrollment may not get that. I think it is imperative that we try to something at this point that minimizes the capital investments that are being made by taxpayers, that we limit this operation so that you can't use the idea of a school as the reason why we should keep this open or should not keep it open. I think that it is something that gives the public a clear indication that, yes, the Legislature is trying to address the issue, we want to address it in a forthright manner, we want to be honest enough to be up front about it, and I believe that we ought to adopt the amendment. I would ask for your favorable vote on the amendment.