

understand it any more. This might be a good bill. I think it's accomplished a lot of good already because we're expressed a hundred times over in this body that we are serious now about forcing some school consolidation. There isn't any question in many of our minds that it isn't needed in some areas. Obviously there are some areas that there is a tax haven, as has been said over and over and over. My concern is we are throwing a big net to catch a few of them and we are catching a lot of people, and some in my district, in Class I schools that are in the top 20 or 25 percent statewide in tax levies. I think most interim studies, as we know, are stalling tactics. We realize that, those of us who have been around for a while. I appreciate Senator Carsten's comment, a few days ago when we debated this, that we have studies running out our ears. That is true. We all know what the problem is though with those studies, 90 percent of them we don't have time to read, and 99 percent of them we don't understand because they were written by lawyers and bureaucrats for lawyers and bureaucrats. But I think we've all expressed an intent that we are serious here this time. We are going to go back to the drawing board, start all over again from scratch with this and see what we've accomplished so far, what is good in the bill, what is bad in the bill, get in our minds a little clearer picture of what is involved. I'll ask a couple rhetorical questions that I would ask that interim study, in fact, if it does convene. Number one, I've heard reference made to Amendment 4 I don't know how many times, but I've never heard a good explanation of how that all important Amendment 4 really is involved in this particular bill. I'm spooked because Platte County, which is in my district, was slated to go up by 90 percent in the ag land valuation without Amendment 4. So it is understandable I am a little reluctant with this particular bill. I guess I would close with a comment that we have two options available to us in this Legislature and that is the carrot and the stick. We've been trying to use the stick here with this bill...our Speaker is still having trouble being "ringy".

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, I'm nervous today I guess. Pardon me.

SENATOR RUPP: In closing I would just say that we have a carrot and a stick available. I don't think we've used the option of the carrot at all. I've heard the figure that we have \$20 million going out in revenue sharing, which we