

better than the one that was just adopted, it gets the right committees involved, it gives the Exec. Board the power to appoint people that represent the issue from across the state, and it will force us to identify really what the issues here really are and what it is our goals are. Senator Landis may know what his goal is, but I'm not sure anybody else around here could come to any specific agreement about what goal or goals exactly it is we want beyond that vaguely defined term of tax equity. We have a bit of work to do here before we can really decide where it is we are going. I believe the way this amendment is drafted is a very positive step in the direction of bringing us there. I think it preserves a part of 662 that is, in fact, desirable. As Senator Rupp has pointed out, I think perhaps it is time we tried the carrot approach. The stick approach is never very well received at any time. I think this is a particularly unwise time to try that approach. Finally, Senator Beutler made some comments earlier about trying to get the public to have some confidence in the Legislature. I believe that what we've seen with 662, and hanging amendments on it desperately to either try to pass it or agreeing to anything in the world just to pass the bill, in my mind would not give me great confidence in the Legislature. I'd have a lot more confidence in my Legislature to proceed the way Senator Smith is proposing. Therefore I would urge you to join me in supporting her. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I will be very brief on this. I've not spoken at all on this issue, although those of you that have been following the board would probably identify me as one of the supporters of the bill. For that reason I am going to ask you not to adopt this amendment. I've got three very quick little anecdotes that I think will help us put in perspective the question of a study on the question of Class I school districts. Anecdote one, quite frequently in town hall meetings these issues will come up. We will talk about Class I school districts. We will also talk about property tax relief. We will talk about what needs to be done, various people will express their opinions. The conclusions of most of those meetings, my superintendent of schools, a man by the name of Paul Bassler, will comment that when he got his masters degree in education he did his masters