

would be raised and put into a special fund for the balance of financing education. Students in the state would receive out of this pool from the property tax, from the sales and income tax on a per capita basis, the school district, whether it is one child in the school district or 1,500 children or 20,000, would receive the same amount, whatever the average cost of educating a kid in this state is. Then there would be a separate fund which in cases of students in areas that have unique situations, let's say Cherry County that may have additional costs, students in those areas would on a yearly or biannual basis be able to get additional funding from the Legislature through sales and income tax. Yes, what it is is a statewide financing system for education and, yes, it completely undoes the system of absolute local control. Ultimately, that is what is going to have to be done. Ultimately, that is what you are going to have to face up to, and my concern about 662 is it does not even remotely, except with whatever may remain of the Schmit amendment, it does not address the issue of education which is the financing system for education, and until that issue is concretely addressed, the other issues become rather moot, and these battles we wage in here become nothing more than turf battle for, as I say, capturing territory. And with a four-year string out of this battle that is set up in 662, what you guarantee is that for the next four or five years this Legislature will be torn up on an annual basis on Class I battles versus the balance of the school system and you will not be dealing with the real problems of education. Who is responsible for it? Every single one of us. The Class I's are as responsible as anybody for the problem of the chaos and the thing. Why? Because they refuse, absolutely refuse to acknowledge or deal with the reality of a changing world, of a declining student population, of a different farm situation than when they started their schools. Such things as requiring foreign languages or computer education in the Class I's, they violently oppose because they look only to the past and the past methods of doing things. The cheapest way to do foreign language and computer education is to get a 1595 cassette and a VCR, plunk it in, and the teacher in the room can do as much or more than with the best teachers in the world on those cassettes. My point is they refuse to look into the future and the technology we have available and they think only in terms of the past, and as long as we continue to do that, we will continue to have our education go nowhere. I blame the other side, us, as much as anybody,