

committee forces them into affiliation rather than merger, that it does in fact give the Class I the alternative of merger or affiliation, my amendment. Their amendment does not do that. You see if the Class III district for instance turns down the affiliation proposal then other parts of LB 662 come into play and merger is forced. So all one of the Class VI's has to do, or Class III's has to do is to turn down the affiliation proposal and so there is no other recourse than the original provisions of LB 662 come into play and so you have forced merger. Now what does mine do? You have forced affiliation. The county "reorg" committee instead of forcing merger under my bill will force affiliation which is a vast difference. It in effect does give the Class I a choice of affiliation or merger. The Vard Johnson amendment does not do that in the final analysis. Okay, then what about the issue of accepting the receiving district should have a voice? Okay, mine leaves that up to the receiving district school board. They can reject or accept the affiliation proposal. If they reject it, then it goes to the county committee and the committee decides what's fair and equitable and that's exactly what happens in merger in the final analysis under 662 original version as far as merger because if the Class I's don't decide to merge why then they leave it up to the county "reorg" and the state reorganization committees to make that decision. So I am asking you to reject this amendment because it in effect nullifies affiliation. That's what it does in effect. In effect it nullifies affiliation. Now there has been some confusion under my proposal as to whether this is a one time deal for affiliation or do you do it annually. Well it's a one time deal. You don't do it annually. Once this merger proposal is in place then it's there and you don't change it. You go through this complicated procedure to effect affiliation. First the local Class I board comes up with a plan and then they go to the affiliating districts, the high school districts and get their approval. Then if they get that approval they take it to the Class I voters and if they approve it then it's okay, but if either the high school board or the Class I voters disapprove the plan, then it goes to the county reorganization committee to be judge and jury, but for affiliation, not for merger, if the Class I decides to affiliate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.