

bill to permit us to do exactly that. In other words, a mechanism is in place in which no one has to detrimentally rely on this bill between now and the time that we can study and solve whatever hardship problems are out there that we can identify and that study will be done this summer. Let me go to the question of what the conduct of this bill is which is I think Senator Scofield's point. And I'll tell you where problems have occurred. Remember Uncle Remus's story of the tar baby and you strike out at the tar baby and the goo starts getting all over you? Well you know what has happened in this case is that one by one the opponents to schools consolidation have thrown up different points and every time we've tried to make some reasonable response and then we get further and further down the line and they start doubling back on each other. And then the accommodations that we've tried to make to their first argument then produces a second range of arguments and a third range of arguments and now it's like as if it's our obligation to clean up the amendments that were put in to accommodate their interests. My point is this, that there has been I would agree some skillful use, Senator Scofield, of tactics on the floor. I regard them to be opponents of school consolidation who have gotten us into the matter of making more and more efforts to show good faith, show it here, show it there, show it in this way, these additions, those additions and when those good faith changes have come then they say, wait a second, I can envision new problems, new differences all because people were prepared to move off dead center to be reasonable. And now we find that moving off dead center, instead of playing the high-handed set of cards that you had, that you did try to make some changes. Then we're now supposed to be responsible for those changes and bear the brunt of responsibility. It seems to me that the responsibility for any confusion that has occurred in this bill is by the opponents who have asked for and demanded good faith over and over again and having it been shown over and over again, and then complain because good faith has been shown over and over again. I, too, reach a limit and I'm there now. I have the amendment that I'll sign. It will go up there to strike the severability clause and it will put the Smith amendment in order, but it seems to me that the tar baby does have to come to an end and the motion of putting this bill in committee simply stops us from cutting the Gordian knot and the cutting of the Gordian knot occurs when we say 1989 comes and that's a day of reckoning. Any time we show any trepidation about really