

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I have a very minor amendment here which I'm sure will not create any controversy. It is much similar to the amendment that Senator Lamb proposed. It allows the continuation of an attendance center as long as the individuals involved choose to retain that center. Some of you might have read the story that appeared on the front page of the Lincoln Journal several days ago, told about the bitterness that has developed between the town of Seward and the small community of Dwight...or pardon me, Ulysses because of the closing of the school attendance center in that community. They were assured, at the time that they merged with Seward, that their attendance center would be kept open. Later it was determined that it was not in the best interest of the Seward school district to keep that attendance center open, therefore, it was closed. Now the children from Ulysses must travel, daily, to Seward. There are other similar attendance centers in my district, notably one at Dwight that is a part of the East Butler school system. I introduce this amendment for that purpose. I move that it be adopted now for the motion and ask that the bill be returned for that specific amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, though I've not read this amendment, in listening to Senator Schmit speak on it, I think I can explain it as follows, I think that the Omaha senators, my Omaha colleagues, they should look at it in this fashion. It sounds like what Senator Schmit has proposed is this, that if there is an attendance center, i.e., a school facility, in a district, and if that district decides that it wishes to close that school facility, the people served by that school facility will vote on the closing. Is that fair? I think that is a fair explanation. Thus, in Omaha, Nebraska, if the Omaha School Board decides they wanted to close the Martin Luther King Middle School, before it could close the Martin Luther King Middle School, which is 1 out of 93 schools in Omaha, the people served by Martin Luther King would vote on the closing. Or in Lincoln, Nebraska, if the School Board decided it wanted to close a given school facility, the people served by that school facility would vote on the closing. Now, with declining student enrollments in Omaha and in Lincoln, the school board has been forced to close the schools. That has not been a popular thing to do. But