

it's been the right thing for school boards to do. Senator Landis has had to deal with that issue, I know, in a school area, and I've had to deal with that issue and the like, and schools simply got closed. It is the prerogative of the school board to make the decision to close a school. If, in fact, we were to provide that an existing school district, whether it be Omaha, or Lincoln, or a Class III, or a Class II, that the folk who attended the school could vote on the closing, I think we would have made a very damaging change to the law, a very damaging change to the law, and we would have really eroded or emasculated the authority of local school boards. People in the end work through representative bodies. If a representative body makes the tough decision to close your school, which it could well do in Omaha, what you do is you go to the school body, that school board, and you push, and you pull, and you tug, and you beg, and you plead, and you cajole, and you threaten, and you do everything in your power you can hoping to keep the school open. But in the end the buck stops with them. If you still don't like them for what they did, you vote them out of office. But if we give everybody the vote, as to whether or not his or her school could close, we are emasculating representative democracy, and it should not be done. Now we have given the Class I people the vote as to whether or not their school should be closed because they have the right today. They have that absolute right today. Inasmuch as we are working on reorganization, or on affiliation, we are preserving the right. But people in Omaha don't have that right today to vote on school closing, and then I'll give them that right, frankly, violates representative government, it violates a precept or principle. It would be a bad policy. It should not be done. I oppose Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schmit, a question, if I may, on the mechanics of this particular amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, would you respond please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Johnson has addressed himself to the urban areas. But with regard to the rural areas if, for