

that bus anyway so that means you are going to have to start driving them back and forth anyhow. But if you provided a bus, you are not going to get paid for it. So it could work in reverse. It could work as a detriment to the family, I would suggest to you. I suggest that if Senator Remmers really wants to do this, he had ought to bring it in as a bill and let the school districts respond to it at a public hearing because this is a major change in the way the transportation is provided in the school systems of this state. Providing transportation through the use of buying the bus itself is considerably different than providing either transportation or reimbursing the individuals for transporting their own children. I urge you to reject the Remmers amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Scofield, then Senator Beutler. Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker, members, I think I support Senator Remmers. I would commend him for introducing an amendment that I think is designed solely with children and rural families in mind rather than dealing strictly with dollars and cents. Obviously, that is important but I think there is a balance both places, but to clarify a question that I have, I wonder if Senator Remmers would respond. Senator Remmers, I am jumping to a conclusion that may or may not be justified and I would like to direct this question to you on this. I assume that your reason for introducing such an amendment might be a concern with a district that might decide arbitrarily to close a district because it is just so far out there and there may be only a couple of children, or ten children, or whatever, and it is kind of a nuisance to maintain, it is kind of expensive, and if we don't change this in statute, we simply close the school and say, okay, parents, do what you need to do to get those children to school. I assume that possibly your motivation for introducing this amendment would be to make a school district stop and think twice about taking such an arbitrary action. Would that be correct?

SENATOR REMMERS: Not altogether. My main concern is that that person that lives out fifteen, twenty miles from school pays taxes and is entitled to the same services as somebody who lives within five miles, and actually this was prompted by a situation in a Class I district where they have to go a long ways. No, I am mainly concerned that that parent out