

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, before you begin, let me clear up some announcements here. Thank you. Senator Vickers has guests in the north balcony. They are 10 eighth grade students from McCook St. Patrick School in Red Willow County. Senator Lamb has 30 guests who are seventh and eighth grade students from Long Pine School in Senator Lamb's old county, Rock County, with teacher present. They are in the north balcony. Also in the north balcony Senator Schmit has guests, 26 students and 20 adults from Shelby Public School with their teacher along with them. Senator Rupp has a relative in the school. Thank you very much for coming down to the Legislature. If you would all stand, we would like to thank you and welcome you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, the amendment before you would strike all of the school finance provisions of the bill as amended by Senator DeCamp. I am asking you to consider this amendment in good faith because I do support LB 662 and the provisions dealing with school consolidation. But from the very beginning I have opposed the inclusion of this bill, the school finance issue. I think if you want to talk about a germaneness issue, that seems to be one that we let slip in a big way and made a mistake on when we first allowed Senator Schmit's amendment which was followed by further amendments, all dealing with school financing. The issue before us is supposed to be school consolidation. That is a big issue. The issue has never been on the floor that I can remember, at least in my seven years, and that unto itself is a historic piece of legislation. To add to that, a finance provision dealing of the sum of \$150 million under the fiscal analyst's report which is also a historic figure. Never have we increased or thought about increasing state aid to that amount of money. That needs to be dealt with separately and independently of the consolidation issue. I think it is a terrible mistake to combine the two issues in this piece of legislation. I think if any of us are concerned about the process down here, this sort of development ought to concern you. I can see, for instance, in my own case and maybe some of your other cases that I can support the consolidation bill but really did not want to support the state aid part of the bill. And that is what happens when you start throwing in different elements into one bill. And there may be some of you that like the state aid part of the bill but don't like the school consolidation and I am sure that is a