

for the recording of your vote. The motion is to cease debate on the Wesely motion. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion prevails and, Senator Wesely, you may close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, and members, the handwriting is on the wall as to whether or not this will be a successful motion. I understand that but I, for one, am going to have a clear conscience of terms of the record, in terms of my position on this piece of legislation. I again emphasize I support the consolidation elements of the bill. I think that is long overdue. I do not, however, support the state aid increase as envisioned by this legislation placed in this bill. Considered separately, considered separately in the context of alternatives, I might support a state aid increase as envisioned but I do not at this time because of the reservations that I expressed in my opening. I again tell you that you may be making a major mistake by combining the two and passing it in this form. Yes, it is historic. Both under themselves are major, major pieces of legislation. In terms of history of this state, this piece of legislation will be long remembered. Let's hope it is long remembered as being a good piece of legislation and not a bad piece of legislation. What may, in fact, end up happening is that as Senator DeCamp said and his hopes are that the consolidation part of this bill will be thrown out by the courts. So for all of you who support school consolidation, we pass a bill that has a major state aid increase that I think is questionable and we get the bill passed and then we have the courts throw out the consolidation part of it and we are left with the state aid increase that I am not sure is really good policy. So there we have one side the victor versus the other when I think vice versa is the one we are now anticipating to be the case. I think we have to be concerned about that. In the end, I think the basic philosophical point I am saying is, is if the people make a decision on the budget aren't the same people that make the decision on funding the budget, you are going to have problems. As long as you have a situation where most of the money is going to come from outside the local property tax for the schools, those local school boards aren't going to have quite the incentive to