

to students and probably I think many people that live right here in Lincoln and Omaha, if they had a chance to go out there and see what is going on, would probably demand a Class I structure rather than what they have. I suspect that not a single one of you who live in an urban area have the access to your school and the ability to assure quality education and participate in the process that I have as a member of my own Class I district. I don't even have kids and they will listen to me if I come in with a positive suggestion. Try that in Lincoln or Omaha. Tell me how far you'll get. I would suggest that this is a model that is valuable for children. It's a model that is based on very humane principles. There is quality there and so you can't vote for the bill on those kinds of assumptions. You furthermore cannot vote for the bill based on the fact that somehow you're going to achieve this mythical goal of tax equity because even though we have problems there 662 doesn't even begin to address those problems. I would suggest that you should vote against this bill. We should reintroduce that study resolution and solve those problems. That's where the problem is. I'm willing to work just as hard as Senator Lamb and I'm sure all the rest of you are regardless of what side you are on this issue to solve them. Senator Johnson characterized this bill as glacial. I will agree with him. The bill is glacial. It is cold. It is hard. It is clumsy. And I suggest to you that we would be wise to set the thing aside. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a difficult bill for me to contend with. It has been made difficult by those who are in support of it. When it first was introduced I was strongly in favor of what it purported to do and that was to merge these little districts and bring some coherence into the system of school organization in Nebraska. I was a member of the double committee that voted to advance it to the Legislature. I supported it even in the face of large numbers of people from rural areas come into my office and at that time they thought I was a hero for one reason or another. They just knew that I had to be against 662 and I had to explain to them I'm not against it, I'm in favor of it. I told them that if a thousand years ago some people in the Legislature made a bad decision by allowing all these little Class I's to proliferate I was not sent down here by