

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, if the amendment sounds familiar to you, it certainly is very familiar to me. It is the same amendment I tried to pass on Final Reading on this bill and barely struck into double figures with ten votes in favor. At the time I knew that it was a doomed amendment, but nevertheless, a worthy one. At the time both supporters and opponents opposed that effort because both thought they could gain by keeping it in the bill. The supporters thought a few votes would be there for the bill if it was kept in the bill and the opponents thought it might lead to a veto. Well, neither one really was right because the supporters didn't really gain that many more votes and it did not lead to a veto in the eyes and in the hopes of the opponents and so we're back to the issue itself which I hope will be taken aside from the broader issue of school consolidation and perhaps some of the concerns and anxieties and emotion that many of you feel over the bill that we just passed and had signed into law, LB 662. I'm about to pass out a handout which will go through a number of editorials that have been written in the World Herald and in the Journal expressing what I think is a sentiment expressed very loud and clear across the State of Nebraska when we passed the bill last week. That identification and that concern that came out was that one part of the bill of consolidation was something to be considered very carefully and probably supported, but the other part of the bill, the finance part of the bill was a very dangerous precedent to take and there was strong, loud opposition to that proposal being part of the bill and I felt very strongly about that and the Governor did as well. It was not taken out of the bill on Final Reading, but it is time that we put aside all the consideration of the consolidation issue and think about the policy question of putting into place, in the law, a locked step school financing proposal that I think will jeopardize our budgeting process for the future as far as we can see. Senator Vickers would like to go to a state aid proposal and he comes at this proposal, this amendment, from a completely different viewpoint than I have. Senator Vickers would like to see in that special session the state aid question, perhaps a different approach could be taken that would be valuable and I think that is a legitimate way to consider it. I come from it from a different angle. I think I completely oppose what is in the bill, the two sections that we passed. I think they are a major mistake and I think we've got to get those out and I think we can at that time