

is best for that school system. I think in the case of District 66 particularly it is clearly in the best interest of the financial best interest of that system for this amendment to pass to say nothing of the increase in the morale it would afford teachers that are 60 or 62 or 64 and would be given the opportunity to retire earlier than they could otherwise. And when you link the fact that the school districts that I visited with want this badly with the fact that, as I understand it, there is going to be minimal if any impact on state appropriations, I think this is something we ought to adopt. I think for both the policy reasons and the fiscal reasons it makes sense and I would ask you to support Senator DeCamp's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Hoagland. Senator Vickers, then Senator Vard Johnson. Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to go ahead and then we will wait for Senator Vickers.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose Senator DeCamp's amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Did you want to finish eating your candy first?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I know, you caught me unawares because I thought Senator Vickers was going to speak first. So I will quickly digest my mouthful before I say another word. There, I can call it. Yes, here comes my drink, too. Holy smokes, I was going to have a leisurely afternoon. Okay, one minute left. The argument offered by Senator Hoagland and DeCamp and the school administrators is this. If we permit fully funded early retirement at a cost to the taxpayers, we end up saving money in the end and we save it in the end because a number of older teachers will opt for the early retirement. Older teachers are always at the higher end of the pay scale. They will be replaced by younger teachers at the lower end of the pay scale and, accordingly, there will be a net savings. We will replace an older worker that is expensive with a younger worker that is less expensive and that is the argument. The second argument that is offered is that older workers oftentimes are more tired, more weary, more burnt out than the younger workers and, therefore, a system that can support an older worker who is tired and burnt out and weary, then retiring