

you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, then Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I'm not completely sure what all this amendment does. I guess I have an uncomfortable feeling when we have a major controversy such as this, then we come in with an amendment which we've not had time to study and I would want to emphasize that this is not a compromise amendment. There has been no agreement between the two sides on this. This is an offering by the proponents of the bill, it is not an offering or any sort of a compromise which includes people that are opposing this bill. I would address part of the amendment which says down towards the bottom of the first paragraph that any provision to arbitrate in a written contract must be entered into voluntarily. Now that's what the proponents of the bill have been correctly saying on this bill before lunch, but just exactly what does that mean, voluntarily? We have school districts across the state and the problem is one school district decides to submit to binding arbitration. You have one school district that doesn't. Then you have tremendous pressure on all the other school districts in the area to submit to that voluntary arbitration. So, yeah, it's voluntary in the first instance but it's not going to be voluntary for long. There is going to be tremendous pressures placed on subdivisions of government on other people who have an interest in bargaining in this manner. So when one unit accepts binding arbitration, then the other units of government in the area are going to be almost forced to do it because of the pressures exerted. And so then once that does happen, what happens to the autonomy of the local board? It disappears, because under this bill they can say at any time, any group, either side can say we want to take it to binding arbitration and there is nothing the other side can do. You can have an agreement one day, the next day it is not an agreement just simply because one small group decides that it goes to binding arbitration, take it to binding arbitration. It really takes it out of the hands of the local people. It really is not, I think, what this body wants to do. It is a bill that is a sleeper. It's a bill that I think you will live to regret if it is adopted and this amendment certainly is no sort of a compromise.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Marsh, please, then Senator