

Vickers, you are next, but before you start if I may, the Chair does have the pleasure of announcing as guests of Senator Haberman in the south balcony 70 students from Big Springs with parents and sponsors and principal. Yesterday I understand they beat Milligan so I suspect they are celebrating, and we indeed are honored, and welcome you to the Nebraska Unicameral and hope that you have a pleasant day. Would you rise so that we may recognize you, please. Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, Mr. President and members, I, too, rise to oppose the Hartnett motion. I would hasten to add, however, as I understand the Hartnett motion, that it does have the...the operating date is after the study is done so I am appreciative of Senator Hartnett for doing it that way, but this points out I think, this points out the problems that the Education Committee has been trying to deal with. I think it strengthens the points that Senator Baack and I made a little bit earlier, and that is that there are those competing interests out there and that there are those districts that are saying that the Educational Service Unit does not necessarily provide the services that they desire, or that the costs of operating that Educational Service Unit is more than that particular school district needs for the services that they do need. So I understand Senator Hartnett's objective and I guess I think that his objective to some degree at least is probably consistent with the study. I guess I would like to suggest to you that because this was, as I indicated to you earlier, this was a proposal advanced by the Education Committee and I don't know whether...I don't think Senator Johnson mentioned it, but I know the other members of the Education Committee, as Senator Johnson well remembers, the frustration that we had, but I think we have got their attention now. We have got everybody's attention and that was the purpose of the Education Committee advancing that proposal, was to make sure that everybody understood that we had a severe problem and that we had to address it. As far as I am concerned, and I think Senator Johnson articulated that as well, as far as I am concerned, that purpose has been achieved. I don't think we need to go the next step, but I will say this. If that study committee is not balanced and does not do its job as I think it ought to do, then we are going to be right back facing this same question again. We are going to be right back facing this same question again. How do we allow a mechanism? And we are not East Germany. We do not force