

Senator Pirsch, Senator Warner and Senator Wesely. Looking for Senator Wesely, Senator Harris, Senator Sieck, Senator Pirsch, Senator Wesely and Senator Harris. Senator Haberman, may we proceed? There are only three gone. Senator John DeCamp, would you close, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would hope that those of you who have an interest in the entire subject of free high tuition would listen for a while and the reason is very simply this. We all know how to say free high tuition, but I'm not sure anybody, that many people understand what the systems are and the reason I say that is because my good friend, Senator Goodrich, listened to my opening and then made conclusions that I was saying something that I wasn't. So let me try to explain in my own humble way how the system works and what my amendment is and why my amendment is the only constitutional way, I repeat, the only constitutional way to do that particular bill short of gutting the bill. In other words, my amendment is what the bill says it wants to be. There are two concepts, two systems for figuring how a high school student in a Class I school district is going to pay for his high school. System number one is a per pupil cost. Okay? In other words, I go to the store, the school. I say, how much does it cost to provide this kid education? They say it costs 5,000 or 2,000 or whatever. That is a per pupil cost system. This proposal of Senator Lamb's is to institute a per pupil cost system. The variation he makes is he would have it one and a half times the per pupil cost. But the essence of it is, it is a per pupil cost as opposed to or compared with the other system and the other system is a property tax financing system. In other words, education is financed based upon what quantity of property is available in a particular school district. Now where the matter gets very confused is this. In an attempt to get to a property tax system, which is what LB 662 is all about, in an attempt over the years to tax based upon not the cost of educating the student, but based upon the amount of property available out there that could be taxed, different formulas have been designed. But each of those formulas has as its goal the very simple trick, goal if you would, of taxing property as opposed to charging a specific amount for a specific student. I have stated that I make no judgments as to which system is right or wrong. I make no judgments here today as to what is fair or unfair. I make this statement. Senator Lamb's proposal is a proposal to go to a per student cost. The Supreme Court