

over the ESUs as far as this legislation is concerned because I think I go back...this bill came into a...or ESUs came into this state in 1960s. They had them in Berlin in 1960s, a wall was up around the City of Berlin and the reason for the wall was simply to not allow people to come in, but to keep them from leaving the east part of Berlin and I think that's what we've done with school districts with the...as far as the ESU situation is concerned. So I simply would urge you to allow school districts to opt out. Another thing of my farm background, I'll tell you a story about the farmer who had the mule and the post and they said, what have you got the post for? Well, just to get their attention. I think that's what I'm trying to do with this is simply to get the ESUs' attention. So I would simply hope that you would return this for the specific amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I would rise to oppose the amendment. I guess I ask the same question that Senator Landis asked on the phone deregulation bill of yesterday, where is the fire? What's the hurry of getting this locked into statute so that we have no options left once the study is undertaken by the Education Committee? I think think that that it's important that this Education Committee sit down and try and analyze the good and the bad in the Educational Service Units. However, you're locking yourself in, in this particular case, and the way I see it you're sort of saying, well, we'll lock ourselves into the statute that we're protected now irregardless of what that study comes up with. We don't have to do anything. We've got what we wanted already. So the school districts can opt out of the ESUs and I guess I would say that let's have the study run its course first, then if it's appropriate to change the law to allow school districts to opt out, we can do that. But under this amendment I think you're allowing the school districts now to opt out before the study has even been undertaken and you're already coming to a conclusion that ESUs are no longer useful to the districts and so what use is there to compromise or work with the districts when you've already got the language in the statutes. So I would oppose the amendment until Senator Vickers and the Education Committee can conduct a study that I think, I know from being a member of the Education Committee, Senator Vickers, Senator Baack and some others are sincere about doing a worthwhile and meaningful study on this whole question of Educational Service Units and I would like to see it done in a way that is unbiased to either side and that if a change needs