

of the study, I think we can have a good study. So the fact that we have to put the ESUs under a hammer to make a good study, I think, is fallacious. I don't think that follows at all. There is no question in my mind that a study will show some abuses, will show some programs that are unnecessary, will probably show some service units that maybe are not doing the job they ought to be doing. There is no question in my mind that, as Senator Rupp said, we have a director and maybe boards elected like the NRDs and many times the directors run the place, whether it's the NRDs or the service units and I think that's probably a problem with that type of organization, but to pass legislation now to allow the counties to opt out I think would be a big mistake. What is the urgency to do it now? If we're going to have the study, surely if the study shows that the ESUs are unnecessary, are not serving the public, why then we can still allow them to opt out. It was the parents of handicapped children that pushed for the ESUs to begin with. They were the ones that got this thing moving and shortly after we adopted the ESUs in Nebraska, and our system is unique. I don't think there is another state that has a system quite like ours, however, most states do have an intermediate type district. But I don't see how the local school districts would cope with the programs that are required by federal mandate for the handicapped, and surely no one here would deny that the handicapped need the training, the best training we can give them. They are entitled to it as well as the nonhandicapped. In fact, they are more in need of training than the nonhandicapped. That there have been abuses, sure. There may be some areas where you don't want them to work, for instance cooperative purchasing. A lot of merchants have been upset about the cooperative purchasing, but I can remember in one year, one year's time, when we went to cooperative purchasing the cost of overhead projectors was cut almost in half at a considerable savings to the taxpayers of this state. Now, that really wasn't what the service units were organized for, cooperative purchasing, and maybe those are some areas they ought to stay out of. I don't know how much of it is going on today. I've been out of the business for six years and I know things change pretty fast in six years. But they are providing a real service that many of your smaller school districts cannot provide and I did tell Senator Hartnett that if...in the case of the Bellevue system, a system of that size, that I would support an option for them to...legislation for them to opt out. But I think it would be a big mistake to do this at this time when we have a study waiting to get started. The service units aren't going to dictate that study. So if you say the service units