

happen. I think that another basic flaw in this amendment is, there is no provision in this amendment for how to get back into an educational service unit. If you've got a small district that decides to opt out and they get out, say a Class I district or something out there decides that this year they don't need to have the taxing dollars spent...their special education, they don't want their their taxing base going to this service unit so they opt out that year. Say they have a couple of special ed students move in the next year, there is no provision in this or any way for them to get back into that service unit. There is no way that that service unit can plan ahead for this kind of a situation. So I think you'd better think very seriously about this amendment. It is not...you know, I know that the Omaha area of schools have been pushing this very hard and the big school districts. Most of them offer the programs themselves. They can afford this kind of thing, but if you have any small districts within your representative district, I think you'd better think very seriously about this amendment because if some of those schools opt out, there is no way they can get back in. They're out. There is no provision in this amendment to get back in. There is no method, they're out of it for good and I think that that could create some real problems out in some of these small districts. So I think that, as Senator Morehead has said, this is an extremely important policy change and I think that we ought to consider it very seriously and I would urge you to reject the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Baack has really said all the things that I wish everyone in here would listen to when we talk about people opt...or communities opting out, schools opting out of a system. We had a bill, in the Public Works Committee, which would have done the same kind of thing with the NRD system. And, for sure, those people that were members of the Public Works Committee should remember the controversy that came as a result of that. It was the same sort of situation exactly, communities being able to opt out because they weren't satisfied. The same thing that Senator Baack is saying would have been true about that as it will be about this kind of system. You can't continue to operate a system based on schools being able to come in and go out at their pleasure, or as they see their need for any one given year or period of time. You have to have the basis there that you can depend upon the funding, and the staff, those kinds of things, on an ongoing basis. So those people, Senator Lamb particularly, I'd like to