

point it out to him, and we've talked about it on the side a little bit. We are concerned here about small schools, small communities being able to continue to provide the kinds of educational services in those communities that they've had in the past, or that they are going to be required to provide in the future. If we take away the service unit system, we are going to destroy the ability of those small schools to continue to survive, Senator Lamb. We have a study that has been set up for the purpose of looking into the very kinds of concerns that we've been addressing here for some time now this morning. I know I'm adding to it, by standing up here and talking. But we all have priority bills. We all have legislation that we think is very important that needs to be gotten to. I'd like to see us just leave it as it is. Let's conduct the study. Let's find out what comes up from that study and let's get this taken care of and get on to other business. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Before I go further, we go further this morning, I would like to introduce guests of Senator DeCamp. They are in the north balcony, 15 seniors from Orchard High School. We welcome you to the Legislature and glad to have you down here to watch the operation. If you would stand, we would like to recognize you and thank you again. The Chair recognizes Senator Nelson. Next on the speaking line is Senators Schmit, Lundy, Marsh, Pappas, and DeCamp.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, don't want to take a lot of time. I think we spent enough time on this issue. As Senator Smith said, Senator Baack put it very well. But I want to bring forth one other point. I mentioned it a little bit earlier. In my own district we have what we call Central Nebraska Support Service which provides the primarily, excepting the video tape and so on, the very same services as the educational service units. We have 33 schools contracting for this. Back to the same point, if a school one year is allowed to opt out, and another year...how are they going to plan, how are they going to provide these services and contract for their teachers? This could completely riddle our very fine system. I'll call these figures off from the top of my head, so I stand to be corrected. I believe the average student, for special ed, was \$2,507 last year in our district, through the Central Nebraska Support Service, and 7,000 plus statewide. So you can see there is a tremendous service there. So let's not riddle a very good system that has been developed. I think our Central Nebraska System is looked on statewide in other states as a role model. Again, this is very serious