

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: And may I say to those who came in, Senator Vickers is closing on his amendment to the Scofield amendment. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, the amendment that I got before you is to reinstate \$30,000 to implement one small portion of LB 994 and that portion being the portion that has a pilot project already underway to measure, to put into place a mechanism to have quality measurements over our school systems for our accreditation process rather than quantity which we have right now and have always had. We made a decision as a Legislature that we wanted high quality programs. We made a decision that we thought that was a way to help work our way out of our economic situations. I think we'd ought to continue to do that. Now, in response to those of you who might say well \$30,000 is such a small amount, the department ought to be able to get it somewhere else. It depends on whether or not you agree with me that if our appropriations process says, thou shalt not implement whatever, and in this case you shall not implement 994, I don't think the department has the authority to take \$30,000 from some place else and go ahead and do it anyhow. If you think they do...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...then vote against the amendment. That's fine. But then tell the department so. Make it clear enough in the intent language that they can go ahead and do it, but I don't think that that's true when you look at the appropriations bill. I think when we specifically say something, that's what they have to do and we are specifically saying, you shall not. I'm only asking you to say you can for this particular little piece. You can go ahead and measure quality. For those of you who may not have heard, there are four projects out there right now, Polk, Marquette, Ord and Wayne, those schools are already involved in this process of measuring their quality of their system so that we in the end, by 1989, can have that system statewide. For \$30,000 I'd think we ought to make that investment if we really want to have any optimism injected into our state at all. I urge the adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.