

introducer of the amendment, both by the original documentation of what was suggested and by my statements now. I would like to get into the Class VI issue in general. Senator Wickersham, you know, read the remarks about that was in one of the bills that passed regarding affiliation which we indicated our goals in terms of reorganization are completed with affiliation. And I think that's true. I don't, for one, want to do any merger forced consolidation of Class I school districts. That was the whole purpose of affiliation was to accommodate a continued existence of a type of education that is traditionally supported in Nebraska and a large segment, not a majority, but a significant minority of our population wants to continue for education purposes. Senator Lamb almost fell out of his chair one day in Education Committee where I likened some of the things that they're doing in the most progressive, restructured, nongraded classrooms in intercities, in large cities to what we've always done in Class I school districts. The model of education in the Class I school district, when performed properly, is a fine model. The taxation that supports traditional Class I schools is not. And the reason the Class Is were constantly under attack in this Legislature was because there was a dual purpose for continuing them. There were some very sincere individuals wanted to keep a Class I school open for education purposes and there were at least as many people on the other side of the fence that solely wanted to keep their Class I schools opened because they were a tax haven. They created very, very low tax levies. We came up with the affiliation scheme, I'll use the word scheme for that also, as a means for solving that issue to allow the continued existence of Class I school districts for education purposes, but to abolish the tax advantage that they have. We did that for all Class I schools in the state except for those that were in Class VIs. We're looking at the data of the Class VIs and I don't know how in the world...Senator Wickersham, I'd love to have you stand up and explain why it is okay for Holt County District 205 taxpayers to pay zero, zero dollars to support kindergarten through sixth grade where you have people in Holt District 77 that are paying 67 cents for \$100 of assessed valuation--zero versus 67 cents. This amendment does not force them to reorganize, doesn't force them to run their schools differently. It just says anybody in west Holt that's supporting that high school is going to pay a levy. Everybody is going to pay 83 cents in that particular school district to support education, K-12 education. It was the compromise the Legislature came up with to end the rancor over forced