

affiliated school districts. I think we still need to wait and see because that process is just now finishing, but my impression is that with the common levy a Class I school district that has lower than average spending or greater than average assets will, in fact, find out that they pay for the education of someone else's children in grades 1-8. That in my mind removes any incentive those school board members have to control spending. Literally they are no longer responsible and their patrons are literally no longer responsible for paying the full load for the education of the children in that district. And you can make up your own mind about what effect you think that will have on the decisions of that school board. But I think it will free them up substantially to make spending decisions. Now I know that Senator Wickersham would probably respond that's the reason we have the lid. They can't run wild because we have a lid. But you ought to examine the lid and satisfy yourself about what you think a school district in that kind of a situation might be able to do under the lid, particularly a district that in the past have been very conservative in its spending and had not used up its lid limitation. They're going to have a lot of capacity available to them and they just might make the decision that they have to keep up with the Joneses and that they have to have very low teacher-pupil ratios, that they have absolutely the best equipment, that they have to have the absolute best of everything. Maybe they need new textbooks every year and someone else will pay some part of it. I think the Class I system works remarkably well not only because it educates children in a way which I think serves them well, but also because it allows the people in those districts to control that education and how much they spend on it. I know that there is some Class I's in urban areas, but most of them are in rural areas and I don't raise that because I think this should be an urban-rural issue and I was glad for Senator Baack's comments in that regard. I don't think it is that at all. But Class I's do fit well in many places in the State of Nebraska where you could not have, in my opinion, a unified administration of what would be a huge school district. For example, let's say Cherry County was all in one school district so you could have a Class II, III, IV District. I think the administration of that district would be flatly impossible or very expensive to maintain and I do not wish to see us move in that direction. The notion was advanced by Senator Baack, and I think it was in a generic sense that somehow all of these Class I's that don't suffer under a common levy are tax havens. I think that's probably an over