

anyway. I mean that argument is bogus, Bob, and you know it. The other argument that he put for us, gee, if we do this thing, the districts are only going to want the best, the best equipment. I don't know a school district that doesn't want the best for their children. I don't know a school district that doesn't want the best equipment for their children, but I...all school districts I believe want the best, but they have to get the best based on what they can afford to do and we are under lids and that's what we have to live with regardless of this amendment whether it's agreed to or not. Bottom line where I'm coming from, I introduced a bill in the Education Committee that was far harsher than this bill. The bill that I introduced would have had a common levy, but it would have done away with the school boards, done away with the schools and they would have had to merge. That was my bill. And what I expect would happen if this amendment is not agreed to, I see the Class VI's...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...in the long run losing everything. This amendment Senator Withem put forward is the kindest of all the amendments. They merge to have a common levy. They have the common levy, but they keep their districts, they keep their school boards, they keep their local control. There is no better compromise out there. In fact, I would say to the Class VI's, if you oppose this one and this fails, I suspect if not next year, the year after that you will have a common levy because tax havens are not things that we agree with in this body and education, and they will be done away with but you may lose your local control totally because there is no reason for urban school districts to support tax havens and local control. If we're going to fight at all, we'll do it all. Senator Withem has said, I'll go halfway, let's do the common levy because it's the fair thing to do, but I'll let you keep your local control which is what you want, that is fair...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that is reasonable, this amendment should be agreed to.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Janssen, you're next.