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with the...with the real possibility of schools that had went through a merger and, in some cases, an affiliation agreement; had been told, I don't think "promised" is a good word, but told that they would be entitled to a sum of money over...that would be distributed over a period of three years from General Fund resources to help them cover the costs of putting two or more schools into one. What I am concerned about, and it doesn't relate to the Baker amendment, is that we wouldn't be able to carry forward with those promises without making some provisions for the future. I think that the thing to do is we...certainly, I have no problem with amending LB 313 to reduce it a year, but I would think that the wiser choice after that would be to move LB 313 and the accompanying LB 313A over to Final Reading and, of course, there it sits and waits till we do the biennial budget appropriations. I'm not as confident as a lot of members in this body that we've got money rolling out of our ears to spend on whatever programs that we might want to spend, and it appears to me that there is certainly an outside chance, if not a middle of the road chance, that we're going to have to be looking very closely at what we want to expend state resources on and a continuation of this program that creates an additional General Fund appropriation might be something that we find at that stage of this session we can't logically expect to do. However, I would hope that we would create enough funding to carry out our promises to those districts who have already made the qualifying steps and are in the merger and are entitled to the incentive payments that they have...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...received. So, with that, I don't necessarily rise in support of the Baker amendment, but I certainly don't rise in adamant opposition to it either, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Dierks, on the Baker amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Coordsen a question, please, for the record.