

SENATOR WESELY: No.

SENATOR ELMER: Do you know if there is available nationwide what, where these kind of things have been done, what the average administration costs are as the percentages of school budgets?

SENATOR WESELY: I don't, but I do have some of the figures from Nebraska.

SENATOR ELMER: Oh, yeah, well, we realize Nebraska's got a real problem along this line and I take you use this as a sterling example of what should be done. For example, I understand, in visiting with a good friend of mine from Omaha, who graduated from Omaha Benson in 1960, that at that time the Omaha School District had its administration in the old Joslyn Castle, which has about 9,000 square feet. Currently, the Omaha Public School Administration is in the old Omaha Tech, which has over 300,000 square feet, and they're asking for more room to be built for administration. And this just shows what is happening across our state. We're spending way too much money for things other than instruction of students. We're spending a lot of money on gymnasiums, we're spending a lot of money on transportation, we're spending a lot of money on lots of things. And a lot of it isn't going where it should be. Senator Wesely, I think that we have to do something like this if Senator Bohlke's ideas of incentives to get the school districts to do this on our own over the next several years don't happen. Then we're going to have to do something like this and I think the public will then be ready for us to do it. But you look at a school district overlay on...or a boundary overlay in the state of Nebraska right now, and it looks like some exotic disease with little pieces of school districts scattered all over, that don't have any kind of rhyme or reason to each other. We certainly aren't efficient. My little home county of Red Willow County has four high schools and four administrations and it's a smaller county than most of them in the state. We can't afford it. Something has to be done. I hope that the state doesn't have to force it, but we may have to and I'll be in there helping if the incentives that we're trying to put in don't work.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Jones.