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a new building or they'd need to keep old buildings open. No money saved. Again, I rise in opposition to this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Beutler, on the Beutler amendment to LB 1107.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I don't think we should be afraid of information. Wouldn't you like, for just once in the history of this matter, to see the actual facts on some school districts and see what we're talking about? How can we be so sure there are not savings? Every thing else in life when we downsize, when the private economy downsizes and puts things into economies of scale, constantly reorganizing, constantly reorganizing to do that, there are savings. Why would we assume that having one teacher with a class of 13 or 14 or 15 is not more efficient than having one teacher with a class of 4 or 5 or 6? Why would we assume that operating out of one school building instead of operating out of two school buildings is not more efficient? I think to speak honestly about this issue, we all know that if the issue were education alone, many, many more school districts would be closed today because there are economies of scale and even, I believe, a better quality education in a slightly larger sized school district. But that's not the issue, is it? That's not really the big issue. The big issue is that these schools exist in towns, and the towns see the schools as an integral part and an inseparable part of their communities. And everybody can understand that, and everybody can sympathize with it, but the question is whether the school aid program is to be effectually a subsidy to the small towns or whether we are seeing this and viewing this on the level of education. I think we have to separate our purposes. There are school districts now in this state that have another school district like a sandwich between two parts of their school district. In other words, you have to travel across one school district to get to the school site in your own school district. I mean that's how crazy the physical organization of some of these districts are. And I would argue that we really can no longer afford to put up with this luxury, that if we truly want state government to operate efficiently, we cannot continue to subsidize, and that's what we're doing, communities because they want to keep their