

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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March 16, 2000 LB 715

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Bohlke, on the Raikes amendment to LB 715.

**SENATOR BOHLKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. As you may have noted, I was a cosigner onto the bill. Senator Raikes, actually, I think I did understand it. (Laugh) When we started on this, I said to him in the beginning, I said, on the one hand I like what you're doing in addressing the per student cost; that's always, I think, been a problem. I like what you're doing in addressing what seems to be an escalating problem in the difference of the cost groups; I think those are positive. We talked a little about what numbers should be used in that standard cost group for schools and the additional amount of money he was sending to them. And I said, on the other hand, I worry that the Legislature has spent a great deal of time, in the last few years, discussing school finance, they have put something in place, and truly right now superintendents, if they understand what the valuation is in their district and the revenue they will be getting, the number of students they have and their poverty and LEP, they really can predict very closely the amount that they will be getting. If we did something new it would be upset the apple cart again. And that, I thought, would have some concerns, and then also I think the concerns indicated by some other members as far as if it could discourage mergers or unification. I remember one time, Senator Raikes, someone was saying to...I read where someone was saying to President Truman, a politician, while on the one hand I think this, and on the other hand I think this, and President Truman used some of his colorful language that he often was known for using, and he said, just give me...please, just give me a one-armed politician. Well, we weren't able to do that and, as I said, I did cosign on the bill. I won't be back next year, I believe you will be, and I believe that those issues will be addressed and that you will consider your...will continue your efforts, and I've enjoyed working with you on the legislation. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Cudaback.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Mr. President, members, I'd like about