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and our discussion was then, do you give schools false hope even though we look like the good guys and the Governor would look like the bad guy, or do we just say right up-front that this isn't going to be a reality and, therefore, do not proceed with the bill? And so I will give my remaining time to Senator Coordsen and then at some time I'll be recognized again.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen, about seven minutes.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Oh, that's more than enough time, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Bohlke. This is an issue that Senator Bohlke and others in the body share quite a lot of concern about. I think when we originally passed the merger unification incentive package perhaps we didn't give enough credit to the divisions, the walls, that exist between communities across the face of Nebraska. Mergers and consolidations or affiliations...unifications is the word I'm searching for, of schools, that is not something that is accomplished as easily as turning a switch on and off; that you say this shall be so and it is so. There's an evolutionary process that has to go on between communities. We're not only talking about joining community schools together, but we're talking about the melding of communities, communities that had been rivals in sports, communities that have been rivals in all of the ways that communities are, for the attraction of business, for retail business districts, for living, all of those things that go into the identification of a town and the area surrounding a town. My portion of this bill was the extension of the date to 2004, a three-year extension. That extension is of no value unless there is money and the resources to pay for the earned credits for unification and consolidation that go toward evening out the differences between school districts when they enter into these sorts of agreements. Senator Bohlke's involvement was to ensure that there was money to carry forward, not only those that are pending, almost completed today, but those that we know are going on in the preliminary stages in the out years. I think that this is something that is not going to be achievable in this legislative session. We have looked at many different avenues to try to accomplish what we wish to accomplish the support of the Legislature of the state of Nebraska to those school districts that are looking over the fence in a kindly way at their