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Transcriber's Office

April 10, 2000 LB 1213

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...with the issue in her district. There are the start-up costs that the money, the incentive money certainly helps those districts, in textbooks, a number of things that...as they begin in the new unified school district. And so I think it's been a good move. I think it's been one that schools and...throughout the state have looked at a way...it's been very popular in Kansas...that we could get some...reduce the costs, still allow those schools and those communities to keep their...somewhat of their identity. And as I originally said many times, it's being engaged to be married, and sometime you need that engagement period before you decide if you're going to get married. This allows that to happen and continue to happen across the state. And I hope, as I said, it will not be a we win, they lose, type of argument. And if it starts to go that direction, I would be greatly disappointed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. For debate on the motion to return, Senator Baker, followed by Senators Suttle, Schrock, Beutler, Raikes, and Jones. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. I want to point out to Senator Beutler, I'll try and answer some of...allay some of his concerns. This discussion is not new. Senator Bohlke and I spent a lot of time discussing whether to use my priority bill as the vehicle to carry this. And I made the decision to not do it. I hope there weren't too many ruffled feathers. And I think this is going to probably smooth them over if there was. But we discussed this two months ago, I would guess at least that long ago. I think my bill was heard, I don't know, in the end of January. It's not something new that just came up. Also, in answer to some other questions here, this is a three-year commitment. When you unify, the state committed to three years of incentive payments, these districts that are already unified. So to go in the second year of the program and say, hey, we are going to cut your unification funds, to me, is not exactly what we ought to be known for at the Legislature, making a deal and then saying, well, we don't have the money, we're not going to pay you the