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upper tier, that it would appear to me that somewhere in there that there's a lot of administration costs that are affecting our cost, and I don't know how we approach that. Still, at 500-plus districts, is that too many districts? I don't know. I do know that there's consolidation going on everywhere in business today, whether it be in the airlines industry; no matter what it is, there's consolidation. And yet we really have not moved in Nebraska towards consolidation of schools. Now, yes, I represent District 66 and someone can come along and say, well, then we should merge 66 with OPS. I don't know, I think both are efficient. I think both...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...are in competition. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Maxwell, I would like to commend you too on the work that you've done, and one area that I would like to commend you on is looking at unfunded mandates, and I think that's probably driving up the cost to our schools as much as anything, not only state but federal. And even look at the fees situation that we've done in the Legislature here is just going to cost more also. I guess I'd like to ask you a few questions too about really what is your goal. Senator Maxwell, could I...

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Maxwell, would you yield, please?

SENATOR MAXWELL: Sure.

SENATOR KREMER: Is your goal to try to cut the cost of education, and I guess I don't know how to put it any other way, then per pupil, or is it just to be funded by a different mechanism or a different mix of taxes, or what...or maybe all of the above? I don't know.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Probably all of the above, Senator Kremer. I would institute a new state variable tax. I'd take half your