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SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Raikes, did you hear Senator McDonald's opening comments?

SENATOR RAIKES: I did, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What do you have to say for yourself?
(Laughter) If anything.

SENATOR RAIKES: I think she makes some good points, but I don't agree with the specific...her proposals for change. I guess I would say that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is this the bill where some lottery money was used to...as an incentive to encourage some action by these school districts?

SENATOR RAIKES: Right, Senator. With this amendment that was added on Select File, there would be \$1 million of lottery money in 2005-2006 that would be used for the purpose of "incenting" mergers and consolidations in Class II and Class III school districts.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Senator Raikes, it sounds like you might be having a little problem with your throat, so I'm not going to keep you on the floor too long.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If 10 percent of the money were not dedicated from the lottery funds to other things, might there be more money at that time available to sweeten this incentive?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, Senator. In fact, I think the way it is now, there's at least some likelihood, and Senator Bourne made this point, that, depending upon how aggressively schools pursue this incentive program, there may be a need to dip into the General Fund in the second year of the program in order to fund it. So, yeah, certainly, lottery funds are critically important