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LB 1091

SENATOR RAIKES: Last time I tried it, I did.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm sorry?

SENATOR RAIKES: The last time I tried it, I did.

SENATOR SMITH: Oh, okay. (Laugh) Well, my concern--and I'd probably yield you some time to respond. My concern is that if our assumption is that efficiency has occurred at 390 students, based on two classes per grade, and you have, very conceivably, two districts consolidating that have one grade...or one class of each grade, you still won't accomplish much personnel efficiency, anyway. Go ahead.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, Senator. I guess what I'd say there is that you would need only one administrative structure, instead of two. So that's one possibility. The other thing is that I expect that there might well be some quality of education, at least from the standpoint of a broader curriculum, that's possible. If you can have two classes instead of one, particularly when you get into the higher grade levels, it may well be that you can offer a little bit broader range of course work than you can if you can only have one section. And the other thing I would point to, if you remember that chart we handed out, that if you do in fact look at the actual experience...cost experience in school systems in the state, that as you do get larger systems, the cost per student does go down.

SENATOR SMITH: To a certain degree.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.

SENATOR SMITH: I mean,...

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.

SENATOR SMITH: ...law of diminishing returns.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.