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we never did it directly; it was always indirectly through one part of the formula, through option student changes, in a whole number of indirect ways, and the result of all of that has been that, in fact, for these reasons and because of the continuing decline in some of the rural areas, has been a substantive decrease in the number of Class I's over that 25-year period. And now we've come to this bill and one might say finally we're to the point of an argument that should be straight up on education, up or down on education, not involving compromises with rural development. And yet, as I look at this bill, the Chair of the Education Committee has once again, at least in my opinion, made compromises to small towns that don't really relate to education. And I'm not being critical about that. fact, I'm going to ask him about it because I want to be sure I understand this particular part of the equation. But it has to do with pages 44 and 45 in the bill, and this is the part that has to do with the ability to close attendance centers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Those attendance centers, there's certain number of student criteria, that could be argued on an educational level; distance from the school, that can be argued on an education level. But the third factor that we're not going to get a chance to discuss, Senator Raikes, but I would like you to address when you can, is the fact that if it's the only attendance school located within the boundaries of an incorporated city or village, in certain circumstances it can stay open. And I can see no educational reason for that, and I assume you've made a compromise for other reasons which may be reasonable, but I would like to understand why that factor is part of the equation for...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, you have ten seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...for closing attendance schools.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have ten seconds, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: If I could, Mr. President, I'll try to address that in a later speaking time.