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SENATOR CUDABACK: You may do so. Senator Beutler, your time is up. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator McDonald and others.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Raikes, this is personal. I live in a Class I school district. I attended a one-room schoolhouse for six years, before they consolidated into a bigger school. For the first six years of my educated life, there were no girls in school, and some of you wonder why I act a little strange at times. (Laughter) The last two years, my 7th and 8th grade, I got to interact with the opposite sex, and that's when the trouble started, I suppose. But I received a good education. My father was president of the one-room school board. He was president of the new consolidated school district, which I live in today. I went to school there. My sons went to school there. My grandchildren are going to school there. I like the school. It's a great school. They have about 15 students opting out on the north side, because Elm Creek runs the bus, and about 15 people, for whatever reason or another, opt their students and drive out from Holdrege, 12 miles a day. That means it's 48 miles a day just to send their kids out there to the country. It's about a 60-student school right now. Since it first opened in 1954, there's two other Class I's that melded into it. So I like my school district. And this is personal, it is. Senator Raikes has been good to work with. But I do have to tell you some things that trouble me. I have a rather large rural district. I can't compare to some of you, but it's amazing to me the only Class I's I have left are around the biggest town. Stop and think about it. Most of the large Class I's are clustered around large towns, and why? Because of the tax policy this body had years ago. The farmers didn't want to pay for the city's education bill, and so they built their Class I schools up around town. I have a Class I a half a mile south of Holdrege with over 100 students and half of them come from Holdrege. They choice out. Now, the problem in my county is that the student population is declining and we're still keeping all the schools open. We have 7 school administrators in my county; less than 10,000 people. And the thing that's bothered me, I...in my 13th year in the legislative body, out of 15, I started 15 years ago, when my hair wasn't gray, the thing that