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FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2005 LB 126

it's part of an incorporated village. They have an elevator. They have a fire department. They have a cafe. It's part of their community. I'd hate to take that away from them. And even my good friend Senator Cudaback, who's probably not going to vote for this bill, has a Class I school district across from his house in an incorporated village...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Sorry, time is up.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...that would be protected. (Laugh) And he is shutting me off. (Laughter)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Sorry about that. Senator McDonald, followed by Senator Raikes and others.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President and members of the body, you know, if this is about money, I think that we need to step back and look at the fiscal note. And it has been said that LB 126 is actually the same bill as we had last year, LB 1048. They only changed the year up one year, as if we would have passed it last year. Fiscal note of that is relatively small. We had a fiscal note that was presented at the hearing, on January 11 it was put together, and was a savings of \$2 million to \$3 million. Now, as of yesterday, we have a new fiscal note saying that it's going to save over \$12 million. Now, what are we to believe? Where does this information coming from, and what's the assumptions in the new fiscal note? This is not the same fiscal note that we had last year, though the bill is the same. It's not the same fiscal note that we had when the hearing was presented. It's a new one. And this is to assume that no attendance centers will close. This is just assimilation. But, yet, the new fiscal note is saying that these schools are all going to close. I'm bothered by the new fiscal note, because we've seen so many changes we don't know what to believe and what...where they got the information for the new fiscal note. Why wasn't this brought to us at the hearing time? Had a whole year to prepare for this to make this correct. This is, to me, not the correct way to do it. If we have a new fiscal note, we should have known about it when the hearing was brought up. When we talk about assimilation, and we're assuming that it's not...these schools are not going to close, but let's face it,