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to the Legislature, I went to a meeting of the Nebraska Diplomats. And someone said something there that has stuck with me these past couple of years: He that can best adjust to change will be the most successful. I think we need to think about that statement here this morning. Quality. I've received the negative e-mails about Kearney schools, the letters that the small schools surrounding Kearney, Minden, that we shouldn't include these in the larger school districts. Well, let me tell you some of the things that have happened in the last two weeks. National teacher of the year to a Kearney elementary teacher, from the Milken Foundation. Nebraska Principal of the Year to Central Elementary. The Nebraska Arts Council School of the Year for Arts. And the World-Herald has an award for scholars at the conclusion of each year. I believe that Kearney is the only school that has had a top award winner every year. Now, these I show not to brag about our schools. But if we're going to talk education and say how wonderful the Class I's are, are we really comparing...and I would ask those people to compare their Class I to what I just listed.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Byars, I share with what you're saying, is that I fear what we have created is small, private schools with public funding. Kind of coined a phrase that fits here: Nebraska likes small government--lots of it. It's time to adjust to the change, because change has occurred. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Fischer, followed by Senator Hudkins and others.

SENATOR FISCHER: Mr. President, members of the body, I am not a product of a Class I school. I grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and I graduated from Lincoln Southeast. I had the good fortune to meet a rancher and fall in love with that rancher at the University of Nebraska, and for the last 33 years I have, again, been very, very fortunate to live in rural Nebraska, in Cherry County. My husband and I have three sons. The older two were also very fortunate that they were able to attend our Class I school district, near our ranch. It's only 5.5 miles one-way from the ranch. When our oldest started 7th grade, we then