

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2005 LB 126

to close a building, is it not?

SENATOR RAIKES: If you wish to characterize it that way, you certainly may. What I would say is that they have stated their assumptions very clearly in that...

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. And that's fair.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...fiscal note, and followed through with the corresponding numbers.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Now, would you agree that the only way to save money in education is to lay off staff or close a building?

SENATOR RAIKES: You can also save the costs of doing budgeting, or to...or have separate administrative units.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. And that's personnel resources, is that not?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah. So you...included in staff...

SENATOR SMITH: Eliminating personnel resources...

SENATOR RAIKES: Sure.

SENATOR SMITH: ...or closing a building are really the only effective ways of getting a grasp on cost. Is that fair?

SENATOR RAIKES: Fine with me. Yeah.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. And that's why I would suggest that, yes, there would be a larger school board making the decision. I mean, Scottsbluff is fighting a battle on whether or not to keep a building open within their own existing school district, and it's a tough battle, without any state mandates as to the size and location. And now we're looking at, in LB 126,...

SENATOR RAIKES: Actually, it would affect them.