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SENATOR SMITH: ...a state mandate on what should be saved, in Senator Schrock's district, basically. (Laugh) We won't go there. That we have a state mandate that if you meet these...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: ...these requirements, you have to keep it open. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse and Senator Smith. On with discussion of AM0354. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I will yield a minute or so of my time to Senator Schrock, and then the balance to Senator Raikes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you have one minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there's been this discussion about whether money is going to be saved. It may not save a lot of state aid in my area, because there's still the number of pupils to educate. But the inefficiencies I see in the Class I's around Holdrege, with just a duplicate administration, I think is going to save the property tax payers some money. Holdrege is a large enough school district, they can run very efficiently, unlike a lot of small districts. About 1,200 students in the affiliated system. Interestingly enough, there used to be about 1,400 students, about ten years ago. So if you closed all the Class I's down, the town school could still handle all the students. But I do think there's going to be money saved. I'm not going to quibble whether the numbers are wrong or right. But I can tell you, there's going to be a lot of administrative money saved in my area of the state. I'll give my time to Senator Raikes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Byars and Senator Schrock. A couple of the points I just want to reemphasize. This bill is one about granting authority to local school boards, K-12 school