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FLOOR DEBATE

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of the entire school make that up? Why ten miles? Why not five? Why not...well, pick a number. Why were those numbers chosen? They're strictly arbitrary. If you have a Class I that is ten miles away from the K-12, chances are that those students, some of them, are going to live even further away from that K-12. If you take the radius of that K-12 district and the radius of the Class I district, there are going to be some students in that Class I that are going to then be 19 or 20 miles from that K-12. You're going to put these kids on a bus, you're going to have them be transported that length of time, or you're going to have the parents drive them 20 miles twice a day? Another bullet point that we've chosen to talk about: Assuming Senator Raikes' resident student figures from information that he presented to the Education Committee, only 49 of the 231 Class I school districts have 23 or more resident students, and this excludes option enrollment; only 49 of the 231 Class I schools. So those would be the only one that would qualify under the first stipulation of the numbers of students. Of these 49, an unknown number may not qualify under stipulation (b), the distance, making them susceptible to closure. And furthermore, any Class I district with per-pupil costs lower than the affiliated district would be vulnerable to closure since closure would raise the affiliated system's average per-pupil cost and, under Nebraska's state aid calculation, would qualify the affiliated system for additional state aid. This would drive education costs even higher. So if your K-12 is \$6,000 per pupil and your Class I is \$5,000--and obviously I'm picking figures out of the air--those children from the Class I going into the K-12, then the total enrollment figures would be calculated for additional state aid. And of course, they're going to use the figures from the higher school...the larger school's calculations. As an example, if this bill were enacted, Oak Valley--and I'm going to be talking about Oak Valley a lot because that is what I'm familiar with--if they were...they're in northern Lancaster County. They're about three, four miles north of Kawasaki. If they would be assimilated by Malcolm Public Schools, since Oak Valley officially operates at a per-pupil cost of nearly \$1,000 less than Malcolm, Malcolm would stand to gain over \$347,000 in additional state aid if Malcolm were to close Oak Valley. With over 90 efficiently-run Class I districts in Nebraska, similar