TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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Class I schools, for the most part, are operating below state and when go start hunting up these schools that are...that have a higher than state average cost, most of them are in areas that are hard to get to, probably have few students, and the reason they have few students, there aren't that many people out there, but nonetheless the state of Nebraska still is required to educate those students. isn't anything in our laws yet that says that you have to have a school within a certain mileage of someone's house. So when you pass something like this, you could be talking about sending people 40, 50 miles or more to go to school, and that isn't uncommon in our areas. There was...we were 30 miles from any high school. I put all my kids through high school that drove 30 miles one way. You people that drive back and forth from Omaha, that's a little over that. So why don't we have Omaha and LPS all one school? You're driving 30-some miles. It's about the same thing as what we have to do all the time. And we happen to be, where we live, we were a little bit closer to the highway and we're closer than a lot of people. A lot of people are driving 40 miles one way to go to high school. you're going to close your Class I schools that service those people in the grades, then you're talking about grade schools that are driving that far. Busing, it's out of the question in most of the western counties. Not everybody lives on one graded road...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...in a row, so they have to have several buses or something like that. Your transportation costs will skyrocket. Some of our Class III schools out there that do have busing have found out that it's a considerable amount of money to carry on a busing operation. Some of the schools have found in some of those areas that since they raised the requirements for a bus driver, it's very hard to get somebody to drive a bus. So I think whenever you can leave a lot of this on your local control, you're going to have children that are better educated. With our technology we have now, most all those schools have computers in them. When you have schools that only have students of 10 or 15 or so, I think the school we have has about 16 students, and I think there's probably 16 computers in there.