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

February 11, 2005 LB 126

Lexington (sic). This is a Class I, Class VI system. We've got seven Class I's and we've got Schuyler School System at the bottom. I'm going to go through this quickly. English Language Learners: 0, 0, 0, 250, 0. Free lunch/free milk: 307, 13, 3, 2. Budgeted amount per student, the absolute lowest of any district. What I want to know, is there someone who endorses this in this body? Is there someone who says this is fine, this is what we should do. If you do, you've got your lights on, stand up. I'll sit here and listen to you explain to me why...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...this is something we ought to do. Explain to me why, when we've got Hispanic families coming into this state, working their tails off, working two jobs, that they're not entitled to have their kids participate in a school system that is adequately funded and with an adequate building. Please explain to me why that should be the case. This Class I system allows this to happen. It must stop. It must stop now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Hudkins, on AM0251 to LB 126.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Raikes has just talked about the overspending of all of these Class I's and why we should not allow them to continue any I have...this is the annual financial report from the Nebraska Department of Education and its per-pupil costs. Let's just look at some of these: Adams County, Kenesaw Public Schools, \$7,988, Class III; Adams Central, Class VI, almost \$8,700; Silver Lake, Class III, over \$9,000; Antelope County, Elgin Public, over \$10,000; Nebraska Unified, over \$9,000, Class III; Arthur County, \$23,000 a student, Class VI; Boone County, Boone Central, \$8,000; Cedar Rapids, \$9,000; St. Edward, \$8,000, all Class IIIs. I can go on and do every single one of the counties. So does this mean that any of these Class IIIs or Class IIs or Class VIs, and there's a number of them in here, should we close them, too, because they're not operating efficiently? Well, of course not. And a lot of these with the higher costs are in the western part of the state. So you're