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FLOOR DEBATE

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looking at transportation costs, and now you're going to have more students go into more of these schools, and you're going to add to the transportation costs. Cass County, let's look at that one. Cass County, Weeping Water, Roger, those kids are paying...or those taxpayers are paying almost \$9,000, and that's a Class III; Cherry County, Valentine, almost...well, a little over \$10,000, a Class VI; Cody-Kilgore, already consolidated, \$10,367, Class II. Let's go to Lancaster County. We'll go in the eastern part of the state a little bit, so we're not always just talking about the western part. Lincoln Public, a Class IV, \$8,030 per student; Waverly is good, \$7,700, they're under the class average; Lincoln County, Brady, Class II, \$11,000. Let's go to Douglas County, just for fun. Let's look at some of those: Douglas County, Omaha Public, a Class V, over \$8,000; Waterloo, over \$10,000 a student, Class III; Valley, same thing, \$9,000; Westside Community--isn't that interesting--a Class III school, a very wealthy district, and their per-pupil costs are, for average daily attendance, and that's what I have taken all of these from, \$8,500. So are we going to close everybody who isn't efficient? Shall we start with Westside and Lincoln and Omaha? I think not.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I need to start off with correcting the record. I do have a Class I school, or at least one anyway, in Dawson County, which used to be some of Senator Cudaback's district; is now in mine. So I'm not sure yet what I do have up there. Then there's apparently a school on the south, a Class I on the south side of the Platte River that I was not aware of till made aware of yesterday. I want to explain some of the teacher assimilation issues. I am married to one of those bright young teachers that has gone through a merger process, a unification if you will. I also have a sister who's gone through it, and so I speak from personal experience with this. The situation is when a school is merged into another one, they take the larger school's personnel policy and adopt that and then just simply go through the channels, and tenure is not much of a factor. It's endorsements and so on, and in some cases I think evaluations and so on, but certainly endorsements plays a lot of it. I know