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February 11, 2005 LB 126

I do raise the call. Senator Hudkins, you're recognized to close on AM0251, which is an amendment to LB 126.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'm glad that everybody is still here because it's important that you be here. What we're voting on today, not necessarily this amendment, the entire package though, is going to affect over 8,000 students. I'm glad to see that Senator Bourne is here. Senator Pedersen has already disappeared, and Senator Foley is here. So I would like to ask Senator Bourne and Senator Foley the same question. So, Senator Bourne, if you'd like to go first?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Certainly.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Senator Bourne, you have a son going to Catholic school. Is that right?

SENATOR BOURNE: Yes, that's true.

SENATOR HUDKINS: And, Senator Foley, likewise?

SENATOR FOLEY: Five.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Five children going to Catholic school. (Laughter) And there might be others of you here who have had your children in a parochial school, a private school, whatever the situation. If someone were to come down from the heavens or wherever they would come from and say, Senator...well, it wouldn't be Senator Chambers because he doesn't believe in what we're talking about. But, Senator Bourne and Senator Foley, if someone would come to you and say, we're closing your school because they're inefficient; we are going to tell you, you have to send your children to the school down the street or across town or 20 miles away, and you had to do it, how would that make you feel? That's taking...you don't have to answer. It's a rhetorical question. That takes away your choice. Again, I would call your attention to the fact that the 10/11 poll said, should the elementary-only schools be merged with K-12s? It