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LR 41

arbitrary. When do we come up with the correct information? We don't have any correct information. You just figure out how many you want to close, you make the numbers prove that, and that's where you get. We take those students and say, okay, they're going to close the Class I school. We have to put those in another school. We still have to pay for them. They don't go away. So the savings going from a Class I to a another school system doesn't necessarily save us that money. We still have to pay for them. They don't go away. They're automatically included in how we have to pay for our students.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR McDONALD: So when we look at this bill, it's bigger than just closing our Class I's. It's taking our rural identity away. As I was out in the district this last year, and I heard various senators talk about us, getting up and talking about who we are, and I heard one particular senator saying we get no respect, we get no respect down there in Lincoln. Why don't we get any respect? We don't get respect because many times we don't listen to the people that are affected by this bill the most. We are here in Lincoln and many of us have not gone back out into the field and realized that we have two Nebraskas. We have Lincoln and Omaha, and we have western Nebraska. We don't have the same rules, we don't have the same populations, we don't have the same opportunities. We need to address that. We can't necessarily pass a law that affects one area...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: ...that doesn't affect another. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Mr. Clerk, items for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Retirement Systems reports LB 494 to General File with amendments attached; that report signed by Senator Stuhr. A new resolution, LR 41, by Senator Combs; that will be laid over. I have a series of notice of hearings from the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, signed by Senator Baker, as Chair.