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FLOOR DEBATE

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schools, both buildings and boards, are an unassailable right and unique opportunity for the parents and students now using them. But apparently they are the only ones who should have the opportunity. None of the proponents seem to suggest that we should make Class I schools available to every student in the state. One reason may be that no one wants to propose the combination of tax hikes and lower teacher salaries that would be necessary to bring this about. Along this line, opponents seem to argue that Class I's are an outstanding educational system, but then argue that decisive action, such as LB 126, is not needed because they are falling away by themselves at a rate of 15 schools per year. This combination is tortured, as is the defense of the 11 schools that have no students, yet, are budgeted more than \$800,000 this year. I ask you, are we going to fund 11 outstanding schools with no students into the foreseeable future? Again, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Engel, did you wish to use the remaining time? Okay. Thank you, Senator Raikes and Senator Engel. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Senator Raikes, if I understood you correctly earlier, you said that race was not going to be a point of discussion. Excuse me, what was said Friday? What were in the newspapers on Saturday? What were in the newspapers on Sunday? I think race very much is a point of discussion and I'd like to address that right now. At two districts, number 22 and 16, 40 percent of the students are Latino or Native Americans. Well, it's true that other schools have less Latinos, but nearly all have some. Now, obviously, there are less minority students in rural areas than in towns. Dawson County residents are mostly...Dawson County rural residents are mostly, but not exclusively, cattle feeders who supply beef to the Tyson meat packing plant, as well as farmers who also serve as the basis of Nebraska's economy. Senator Raikes wants to fight for the rights of minorities. I suggest that he consider Class I parents and their rights. They have a right to educate their children under a thorough set of Nebraska laws that Senator Raikes would revoke. He just said that parents...we should not allow parents to opt their children out of a K-12 school. We have the option laws. They are in