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SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Erdman.
(Visitor introduced.) Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no idea what Senator Beutler's comments had to do with this debate, but I would yield my time to Senator Smith and go talk to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members, and Senator Erdman. And I missed what Senator Beutler had to say, but I heard something about some world trade and so forth. And I'm glad to know that Class I schools have an impact on world trade, because I think they are a little farther-reaching than most of us would admit. And I think there was a good handout from Senator Loudon of a cartoon, long ago, of how effective a one-room schoolhouse can be in producing high-quality education for its patrons, namely the students, secondarily the parents. But not all Class I schools are one-room schools. Some are, with very few students. Some are not. I was speaking with a colleague who said that he went to a Class I school--and I won't even venture a guess what years, but it's been some time ago--where there was kindergarten through 8th grade, 1 teacher, 38 students. I think there was some concern of the quality impact on kids there. I can guarantee you that that is not the case. And I speak to that based on my experience, not only as a student, but working in the education setting for more years than some might assume. But we have so many different sizes of Class I's, and we have so many different reasons for Class I's. In Senator Stuhr's district, they didn't have enough reasons to keep the schools open any longer. That was their local, voluntary decision. I support that local, voluntary decision to pursue other structures of school districts. I will stand by the Class I schools who maintain efficiency and effectiveness in providing a cost-effective education across Nebraska, because that's what most Class I schools are about. Now, Senator Raikes points to some egregious examples of stewardship of public funds. I can't dispute that. I can point to some egregious