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LB 126

followed by Senator Erdman.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Well, after a long period of time now we are back on LB 126. As Senator Smith and Senator Louden said, we tried to do some negotiations here. I have a packet of proposals that have gone back and forth between the two groups. I can't tell you right now if we're still doing negotiations or not. As most of you know, there were nine people, ten counting the Speaker, off this floor in his office trying to work on something. And I don't know where we are on that. But the amendment that I've substituted from Senator Louden that I signed onto also, the amendment, AM1217, that's the first proposal, if you would pull it up, that's the first proposal that our group of eight senators came up with when we said we would negotiate. And when we, or most of us, not all of us, agreed that this would move on to Select File, I think that was a good starting place. And at this point in time, I think it's a pretty darn good proposal that you're looking at with AM1217. The eight people that have been involved in this, the senators, represent all parts of the state. As you know, Senator Heidemann is from the southeast corner; we have Senator Langemeier and Senator Flood from the eastern part of the state; and Senator Hudkins from the Malcolm/Lincoln area; Senator McDonald and myself are from the central part of the state; and from the western part of Nebraska we have Senator Smith and Senator Louden. All of us have different Class I districts and different types of Class I districts, whether they are affiliated or Class VIs within our legislative districts. All of us with our Class I's face different situations. That's been the problem with LB 126. LB 126 looks at the Class I's in this state as the same. They're not. And the eight of us know that they're not. So we came up, as our first proposal to Senator Raikes, with what is now the amendment to LB 126, AM1217. Senator Louden started going through this with you. I would like to address the amendment because I don't believe anybody here hasn't already heard the pros and the cons on what we have with school organization in this state. I don't think anybody in this Chamber is going to be swayed one way or another on the stories we give you or the facts we give you about the need for Class I's, the misinformation and the wrong perceptions that