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LB 126

it is. I question what is the impact to that particular district? But I've also learned in the past that that's not the requirement for the Lincoln Public Schools to be involved in certain issues here in the Legislature. I learned by visiting some schools about resident students, about option students, and that seems to be a hang-up on LB 126, is who is a resident student, who is an option student. I say if a student is in a school and they're happy to be there, they're a student. If their parents choose to drive them a distance to get there because they feel that a better education is offered at that location, so be it. We should not hold it against them that they happen to drive far to get there. Happy students mean happy parents. Happy parents mean happy taxpayers, and I'm trying to recruit happy taxpayers. What I learned is that there are several students, several families that are closer to a Class I school than their resident district; and because of our option policy, they choose to go to the Class I school. It's closer. Oh, no, but we need to get hung up on the fact that they're across that arbitrary boundary. And only because they're across that arbitrary boundary, they are option students and not resident students, therefore, not fully entitled to attend that Class I school. Let's get over those hang-ups and open it up and have access from everyone. You know, I've been reading, especially this time of year when there's transition with schools and new grades and there's a refreshing new start coming in August, and I know that Senator Raikes is rather chapped perhaps by advertising one school in the newspaper when another school might not. And I think it's a sign of healthy competition. If Banner County Schools advertises in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald for students and to attract students out to their school, so be it. Now, if they're doing that because they can gain from the state aid formula, that's our fault.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: That's legislative policy. I only beg that the body look at quality, especially as quality of these...the quality that exists in these Class I schools is supported by efficient operation. I have agreed from the onset that if there are Class I schools that operate inefficiently and ineffectively, meaning academically, I'm not here to support