

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 19, 2005

LB 126

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the Legislature. I'm sure Senator Stuhr did her consolidations 50 years ago or however many years back it was. She's got to remember she's probably got a road every mile around every section, maybe more. Maybe they're even closer than that. She also, through her district in her area, has some paved county roads. We're talking about areas out in the western part of the state where the best paved road we have is probably a ten-foot oil strip, and that isn't roads everywhere. That's just into some of the feeder areas. So we have a problem of transportation out in the western end of the state. When you talk about your cost per student, when she's talking about how many of them were paying, what, \$10,000 or whatever the number she quoted, how many of those students were actually involved in that? When you have something like a total of 8,000 students in your Class I districts, it isn't because we have a big number of students. And, sure, your cost is probably going to be considerably higher when you have to travel the mileage and have miles in there and bring teachers out into some of these areas. The question is, are you going to have teachers come out in those areas to have education for those children, or are you going to expect them to be hauled someplace for several miles? I grew up back in the days when schools were being closed out at an enormous rate back there in the late forties. Also in Wyoming the parochial schools did a land office business. In fact, I boarded in parochial schools with grade school kids that were in kindergarten and 1st grade, and that was usually the job of the older boys, was to look after the littler kids. And you'd see kids come in from these areas that were probably, especially out of Wyoming, they'd be the first graders that would come at the start of the year and they would go home for Thanksgiving, first time they'd go home. This is what we have gotten away from with our school system in Nebraska. We went to Class VI systems out in the western end of the state and they've worked quite well. And I'm under the impression there are even some down in this end of the central part of Nebraska. Grand Island, Hastings, and different areas have large Class VI districts. I don't know how many of you understand a Class VI district, but it is, in fact, a K-12 district. The Class VI