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LB 126

high school district has the budget authority. They pull the purse strings. They do whatever is necessary with the budget and each of your independent autonomous Class I schools that are in that district set up their budget, and it has to go through the main Class VI district. So there are ways and we've been doing this for years. There's no reason why that same principle couldn't be worked on farther into some of your Class II and III districts where they have affiliated schools now. The same principle could be used. It isn't nothing new and it isn't that hard to work out. LB 126 isn't anything that had to happen. This is something that somebody has decided to do just for the sake of doing it, near as I can tell. There's no one that has really been for this thing. We had our LR 180 studies here, what, nearly two years ago now. They came as far west as Broken Bow. My goodness, they got pretty near as far west as Broken Bow. It's pretty near quicker to drive from Lincoln to Broken Bow than it is from Broken Bow to Chadron, so you see how far west they got with their hearings. And I attended some of those hearings, and I would surmise that out of the three hearings there was probably over 1,000 people attended those hearings. And there probably was nine people at the very most that were in favor of doing something like this. Otherwise...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...there was probably 990 people that were against it. But yet we went ahead and have come up with these projects to close your Class I systems. You want to remember schools in Nebraska have been here for way over 140 years. And this goes back to clear, like, I think you go out here and look at the mural, Minnie Freeman when she tied her kids together and hauled them back through the storm of '88. So there are traditions here and this is what you're trying to wreck. You're trying to wreck this entire tradition of the school system in Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, those of us who believe that LB 126 is the single piece of important restructuring that