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LB 126

we are going to do this year have left it to the sponsor of the bill to make discussions. And if anyone was in the mood for a joke, I would say that for some of us, that's not an entirely comfortable situation, letting Senator Raikes have that much power. But the bottom line for me is that LB 126 is a defining issue. It's not defining about whether we like Class I's, whether we think that Class I's have quality; it's defining about whether we are going to be in 2005, where our expectations about education are quite a bit different than 1885, when most of the Class I's or the concept of Class I schools was put in place. There was a time when we thought that if every child had a 6th grade education that we would be a wonderfully advanced society and we were. And it was that commitment to getting everyone to have a 6th grade education that got us where we are. We have long since given up that 6th grade education for everyone is acceptable. We have higher expectations. It's not about whether the quality in the school is going to change. It shouldn't. Parents shouldn't change whether they are affiliated and feel good about the school. It's whether our structure should follow our expectation. And our expectation is that kids should at least have a high school education. It is 2005. We don't have the same expectations. This is about restructuring. It's not about us forcing the issue at the local level. The schools won't close if there is a reason for them to stay open in a bigger structure. We need to do this and we need to do it now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Would Senator Stuhr yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, would you yield?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Stuhr, you mentioned that some Class I students were not being tested. Where did you get that information?

SENATOR STUHR: I'm sorry if I implied that they were not being