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LB 126

Class I schools. I've already heard that that's the intent. I don't think we can honestly say that LB 126 is simply a shift...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...in the administration of funds or the structure. I mean Senator Brown talked about how everything needs to be a K-12 system instead of a K-6 system because we only used to care about a 6th grade education. I don't quite understand what she was talking about, but I'll give her the benefit of the doubt in suggesting perhaps that it's just a mere change in the structure of a school. But I ask you this question. If Westside School district would lose their school board, would you expect to see the same products and programs coming out of that school system if it were an OPS school board? Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Flood, followed by Senator Stuthman. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. And I want you all to know I'm not just talking because it is Madison County Day today. I do rise in opposition to LB 126. This is not the first time we've had this discussion, and this morning's negotiation wasn't our first negotiation. For those of you that maybe are on the fringe or may be supporting LB 126, you may wonder why we're having this trouble trying to put together deals and negotiate different interests. And that's because each one of the rural senators comes from a different position. I come from a county that happens to have a Class I cooperative of seven schools, nine total districts, but seven operating schools. Senator Fischer in Cherry County has experience with a Class VI system. Senator Langemeier has experience with a Class VI system, but a very large and high minority population in the city of Schuyler and then Class I schools out in the rural areas that do not have that many minorities. So he certainly has different dynamics involved. You have Senator Smith who, out in western Nebraska, has the traditional Class I schools out in the country, part of a Class III system, certainly a different situation. My interest in this is to find something that treats all different Class I schools fairly and