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LB 126

the year 2005. I'm fully aware of that. But I hope that we don't hold a compromise against those who agree to it. I'm kind of anxious to see how this turns out, if indeed it does pass. I guess maybe a prediction that I'll make might help people refrain from doing it. But I'm kind of anxious to see a new list of administrators called assistant superintendent for school district assimilation. Because that's probably what we're going to have. When we see the growth in administration over the last several years, I think we're bound to see more. And the most upsetting thing to me is, as we see more and more and more administrators, we're also seeing a heavier and heavier burden on classroom teachers. Classroom teachers are bogged down right now. I don't know the exact numbers, but I would suggest that there are probably more teachers leaving the profession because of the bureaucracy than because of the pay. And I know I had teachers out there, even in the K-12 setting, that I think deserved \$100,000 a year, and no less than that. They were fantastic teachers. But again, our one-size-fits-all approach prevents us from paying more money to those teachers who deserve it. And LB 126 is a one-size-fits-all program, not necessarily for teacher pay, but for the organization of a school district. To me, it flies in the face of common sense. And when I hear the most common criticism of Class I schools being that they offer higher-quality programs and a better education than a larger setting, therefore we should take it away, there's a political concept to describe that, and I can guarantee you it's not a democracy or a free market. When you take away quality, take away the benefits that someone...and the advantages that someone has so that you can spread it out among everyone else, that disturbs me a lot. What we have right now is working. But I'm even willing to endure some change. I proposed some changes. Perhaps it was a little too much change for several folks, especially behind the glass. I am opposed to AM1672,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...again, because it takes that autonomy away, and it places new mandates. You talk about unfunded mandates, perhaps, or mandates of any kind, you be ready to take the criticism, because there...it may not happen right now, but for