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LB 126

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, Senator Erdman. I guess I'm one of the mean relatives who wishes not to participate in the eulogy at the funeral. But I can't help but think that as we stand here today and we're facing the difficult issues before us, that if we want to go home and say that we took some positive action relating to public policy, I certainly won't boast about education reorganization, if that's what you want to call it. But I will tell you that an attendance center protection without local autonomy is absolutely and completely worthless. If all you're concerned about is mileage, because gas is high, well, I suppose that's okay, because you might have a school building a little closer to home. But it's been very interesting watching all of the advocates for this, LB 126. And why is it? Why is it that certain large district lobbyists have gotten involved? What does it mean to them? We need to ask ourselves that question. I know that I never expect to get everything that I want. I made a proposal that I know other members found intriguing and were very interested in, on both sides of the issue. I never expected to get all of that, exactly what I wanted. I never expected that. I just wanted a little piece. I wanted a little piece, so that parents in the community school could determine how dollars are spent that are given to them by the K-12 district. I don't think that's a lot to ask. It was interesting learning about the various criticisms of that concept, because I can guarantee you that if there was a desire to make it work, we could make it work. And I understand the spirit of compromise, and when one asks for just a little bit, just a little bit, and they don't get it, it forces one to think, what exactly is this about? What exactly is this about? And I hear one side saying, well, this is only about K-12 organization; has nothing to do with closing buildings. But I already know that K-12 districts are planning to close buildings. I know that Lincoln Public Schools is so hungry for tax dollars that they want to make the district as large as they can so that they can take in any construction--new construction, old construction, whatever it is. I mean, I even hear of Lincoln Public School District board members wanting to take over K-12 districts, neighboring K-12 districts, saying,