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LB 126

consolidation. I think we're probably going to raise our overall cost of education. We're not going to have more money to distribute amongst those children. We're just going to have a larger area to scatter it over...probably more administration cost. And of course, a lot of that administration cost is part of the needs that will go, so consequently, there will be more of a...paperwork, asking for more state aid to education. I think this is probably the wrong way to address school problems in Nebraska. It seems like to me, are we really trying to address the problems, or has someone set up a smoke screen so that we're spending our time and energies on something that probably doesn't need to happen? We had...we have school systems that are working quite well. We have consolidation going on every day. You're losing about 12 or 15 Class I districts every year over the state. In some places they are even disappearing faster than that, so it wasn't something that...probably, probably we would have our consolidation without LB 126. I wonder if this is something that has been brought forward, just because it's...I guess out of force of habit. It seemed like every year since I can remember, since probably 1960, I think, somebody has been trying to consolidate the schools. So is this something that has to be done a year?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: And if we don't have this project in front of us, why, we wouldn't know what to do with our time. And we've certainly spent plenty of time on this reorganization project. So really, I can't say as I support this. It was something that I didn't think needed to be done. I still don't think it needed to be done. I think it's really a shame that we're destroying our Class VI districts. They were ideally made for the rural areas, and they worked quite well. Those will go by the wayside. That will be the end of them. I think there's going to be some Class II and III districts that probably will consolidate with the Class I's. I think they would have happened anyway in areas. Many times they have been. There were some problem areas, but I think instead of addressing the problem areas on a one-to-one basis, we went out and gave a shotgun approach to what we thought was a school problem, or what some people considered to be a school problem. I think