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LB 126

those areas could have been addressed otherwise.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Hudkins, followed by Senator Erdman.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This is my 13th year in the Legislature, and I think this is among the top five of the most difficult votes that I have ever had to make. Am I going to support AM1672? Yes, I am. There were a group of us that were adamantly opposed to LB 126 and what we thought it would do to the rural schools. We worked very, very hard to try to get an agreement. That did happen, to a certain extent. We didn't get everything that we wanted, but neither did the other side. That must mean that the agreement that we came up with is probably the best thing that we can do, under the circumstances. I'm a product of a Class I school. I'm also a product of a Class III school. I went to a country school two miles, rode a horse uphill both ways in the snow. (Laughter) I also then rode a school bus and then, after I got my license, a car, to high school. So I have been both places. I've been in the rural school, where there were two in my grade, and then after the 4th grade, I was the only one. I played Andy over with all of the kids in school. We played on the merry-go-round, but we learned. I don't think anyone in this room will ever say that you don't get a good education in a Class I school. You have more of the one-on-one attention. You have more of the built-in remedial, because you hear the 2nd grade lessons when you're in the 3rd and 4th grade. You have the built-in enrichment program, because you hear the 6th grade lessons when you're in the 4th grade. Senator Raikes has told us that his bottom line is K-12 organization. Senator Jensen said that that is the way to go. Well, I don't necessarily agree that that should be the educational system for every child, because once you leave a Class I system, you go to a K-12 system. So you get the benefits of both worlds. The powers that be have decided that there will be a reorganization of our schools. We have worked together with Senator Raikes and with