TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

June 3, 2005 LB 126

say it isn't about closing buildings, but you certainly will be closing buildings. There will be no savings unless you are. It will also be about cost of administration. You're going to have to have more administrators and people to see that these different areas are taken care of. Right now, we're consolidating two Class VI districts in Sheridan County and Cherry County. They'll probably cover more land than there is between here and Omaha. It could be somewheres around...I haven't looked, but somewheres around 400 square miles of territory we're talking about. Why don't you make one large school district have Omaha and Lincoln? Then you can cut down your cost of administration. How many districts are in Douglas County? Why don't you consolidate them to save your...some of your revenue and your assets. These are a lot of other problems that could have been addressed but, instead, we go out here with a one-shotgun approach that we're just going to get rid of these Class I's and the heavens will all smile on us again and everything will be great. It won't happen that way. This is something that's going to wreck our entire school system and especially in the western part of the rural areas in Nebraska. I certainly think the Governor was very correct in vetoing this. It's been a bad bill. It's been something they've been working on for three years. The LR 180 study showed that your Class VI districts were one of your more efficient ways of education in the state of Nebraska. They showed where other states are trying to go towards those type of school systems. But, yet, with the "boldheadedness" or whatever we have in our system around here, we went with this LB 126 and we junked the whole works. This is something that I think we have to consider and I would ask those of you that when you say you have...don't have any Class I districts in your area and you have nothing but K-12 districts...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...so it don't make any difference, then just don't vote. Because what...if you vote to override the Governor's veto, what you're doing is affecting other parts of the state that isn't in your area. And unless you're familiar with it, then I would urge you to vote very carefully because this is something I think the Governor thought quite well and