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FLOOR DEBATE

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at the dramatic increases in graduation rates, if we can sustain those, that will pay us over time. Because of the fact that we were innovative in that the Department of Education went after federal funds to fund a state-defined project and a state need, you know, I don't think we ought to hold it against. I would rather have more federal funds to fund all this kind of stuff, but if this is an area that's having success and it's having a need met, I believe that we ought to seriously consider funding this small amount in the state budget. You know, this is not saying that they can't learn or that we're specifically saying there's racial differences. We're saying there's challenges that we could...that we ought to help meet. If you look at the success rates of our schools, I think that the Native American schools have huge challenges, and we have to do everything we can to give them a leg up. I ask that you support this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is not meant disparagingly toward Senator Raikes, but as he spoke, I felt like jumping up and saying, whoa, Kemo Sabe. (Laughter) There are different ways that people have of looking at things. If a white lad is referred to as a boy, it's common. It doesn't mean anything. But to the black community, "boy" is a disparaging, derogatory term, and even black lads don't want to be called boy. And if a teacher were talking to two students, one white, one black, and she referred to the white kid as a boy, nothing happens. She refers to the black kid as a boy, and he says, don't call me that, and she says, go to the principal's office, you're getting sassy, you're getting smart, because she has no understanding. I've dealt with these things, so I know what I'm talking about. Senator Raikes is in that realm of the academic and the speculative. What Senator Connealy, Senator Loudon, I, Senator Dwite Pedersen, and others will deal with is the reality that we know exists in these schools and in this society. Everything is structured around white people and the way white people view things. White women may not take offense at being called gals. Don't call a black woman a gal. See, all of these are those degrading things that