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FLOOR DEBATE

March 15, 2006 LB 1060

SENATOR SMITH: We have staff development professionals around the state, primarily through educational service units. Are those folks selling us short? Are they not doing their job?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Oh, I don't think anybody is accusing that. I think that what these two will do is help coordinate that and assist the people who are doing workshops and continuing education. This is a way to share best practices. If someone has a program that's working well someplace, that that is a way for the Department of Education to have somebody specifically assigned to make sure that that is shared someplace else. This is a program that I believe is showing real success, too.

SENATOR SMITH: When we train our teachers in Nebraska, we have a state mandate. I think it's called human relations. Does that deal with any of the same topics that this...that these positions would deal with? And I don't mean to put you on the spot. Let me give you a bit of background, perhaps. I have a teaching degree. I'm no longer qualified to teach anymore, because I haven't taking continuing education, but that's a separate issue. The fact that there is a requirement--I believe it's still on the books--that every prospective teacher must take a human relations course that addresses racial disparity, imbalances perhaps, that might exist in curriculum and otherwise, certainly enhance the ability of every teacher professional...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...to meet the needs of the students and their diverse needs. That's already a state mandate. Have we made any ground with that? And that's a rhetorical question, perhaps. But I mean, I've had some requests from constituents to support this, and it's kind of interesting. All of a sudden, we get bombarded with this and that. Please support this; please support that. And I'm just struggling with what to support and what not to. And my overlying, or underlying concern on various education issues is that we're putting money into noninstructional areas. These dollars, correct me if I'm wrong, these dollars will not meet classroom needs, the front