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LB 1024

the way. And thank you, Senator Raikes. And my primary concern is that when you look at the numbers...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: When you look at the numbers, and in terms of noninstructional dollars in Nebraska schools, we're out of balance here. We have seen since 1970 a reduction in the number of school districts to one third what we had in 1970, but we have three times the number of school administrators per district than we had in 1970. We're losing out on the effectiveness battle, on the efficiency battle, and that's why I have serious reservations about creating yet a new level of administration, and that's why I want to, I think, be very careful in terms of what we do here. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion? Senator Brown, followed by Senator Kopplin and eight others. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President. I listened to what Senator Smith just said, and I think that I need to support what Senator Raikes and the committee have done, even though it may hurt me to say nice things about Senator Raikes--(laugh) that's a joke--because I think that they...I do not believe that the learning community board is a new level of administration. I believe that it is making the ESU do what we had assumed that ESUs were supposed to do anyway, and I am trying to find the things about LB 1024 that will resolve what I believe is a very dangerous situation for our community. I am a product of public education, though not in the Omaha community. My son is a product of public education, both OPS and Westside, and I can only say good things about his educational experience in both systems, but particularly in the Westside system. But what I worry about is what has happened to the community, the divisiveness, and I am afraid that the Bourne amendment is just another example of the divisiveness, because if you look at what the Bourne amendment does, is that it presumes litigation, and I thought that that was most of the reason that so many of the people have worked so long and hard on LB 1024, trying to get some resolution that was going to be...that was going to