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LB 1024

things I like about the bill. School boundaries are kept intact. This is a must. It deals not only with OPS and Douglas County, it addresses the Papillion-LaVista and Bellevue discussions, it approaches the south Sarpy concerns of border, it allows for smaller class size for poverty students. The bill recognizes a need for a state department position to help teachers in working with poverty students. I have, however, concerns which need to be carefully considered before passage of the bill is considered; first of all, the complexity of this proposal in itself. You are being presented a very complex piece of legislation and asked to deal with it in a few short hours, in a few short days, a piece of legislation that not even all committee members understand completely. I'm concerned about the tax increase and the shifting of state aid and resources. I'm concerned about the potential magnitude of the transportation system being proposed. I'm very concerned about the limited proposals for actually doing something for the children in the classroom. I'm concerned about the effect of the voting arrangements on the smaller schools and some on Sarpy County. I'm concerned about the shortcomings of open enrollment and attendance areas. And then we have Senator Bourne's amendment. Diversity--diversity in our schools, in our communities, in our neighborhoods--it's a wonderful concept. Diversity--it's easy to talk about, so very difficult to achieve. Of course, this proposed amendment doesn't say what racially and socioeconomically diversity is. In a building, is that 10 students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunches, or is it half the student population? In Douglas and Sarpy counties there are 190 school buildings. Springfield Elementary is at least 25 miles away from Kellom in Omaha. What method are we talking about, to make these buildings racially diverse? This will take a mandatory busing plan of a proportion we've never seen before. Most of these buildings in these school districts are at capacity.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: To make them diverse means we must first move a sufficient number of students out of the building before we can move a sufficient number of persons into the building. If this amendment passes, I will file an amendment directing the