

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1024

side of Omaha for the simple purpose of equalizing the various racial groups within the school? I don't think the students like that. I think...Johnny likes to play with Johnny in his neighborhood. He doesn't like to play with somebody that's maybe a mile or two away that he doesn't have any idea who they are. So I think we're dealing with a very sensitive issue as far as students are concerned, and I know that you have assiduously avoided saying exactly how this would occur, but do you have any better idea than what you've said up to now how this could be accomplished, Senator Bourne?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, you know, this is a forum for ideas, and I will tell you that this amendment does not mandate anything. And you are trained in the law, and if you read it carefully, it's...let me ask you this, Senator Pederson, since we're having a dialogue. If, say, any district within the learning community, assuming this bill passes, comes under court order to become socially, economically integrated. Say it's Westside.

SENATOR D. PETERSON: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: How do you propose that Westside could become integrated by itself, if the superboard that they report to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...has no authority to help them? That's what I'm driving at, and if you have a better way of doing it, you're a far wiser man than I am. But they cannot do it alone, is what I'm suggesting.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, you say it's not required; however, you do have the word "shall" assure that every school within every learning district meets this test, and I think that's a requirement. When you...you know, we've had a lot of discussion about the word "may" and "shall" and "desirable" and things of that nature, but when you say "shall," I think that's a requirement on each district, and I think that they would have to assure that that has been accomplished, and I don't know how