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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes. I'm sorry your time is up, Senator, so...we wasted too much...five seconds, I guess. Senator Kopplin.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. A complex bill gets even more complex as we go. What we need to do is get back to a simpler version, where we keep the boundaries intact, put the needs of these communities back on the backs of school people who understand what schools are all about and can put together the right kind of plan. Why are we looking to the schools to solve integration and poverty issues in the state? There's poverty pockets all over the state. Certainly, the schools have a part to play in the process, but they are only a small player. Where are the cities who can replace the aging infrastructure in these areas? Where are the bankers and the investors willing to give these areas the financial means to develop? Where's the business world who can bring jobs to these areas? Where's the developers who can replace the aging structures of these areas? Where are the realtors who are willing to sell, to bring home sales to these areas? Where's the police, to bring stability? Where's the chamber of commerce to promote these areas? Omaha is more than the riverfront. Where's the Legislature who can make the policies to make things happen? Where are you, where am I? Only together--that part I agree--only together can we solve poverty issues, not schools alone. I guess I would disagree with Senator Bourne a little bit. I'm not an attorney, but when I read the language of his amendment, it says all buildings--all 190 of them--shall be diverse, and I for the life of me cannot see how this happens easily. It's more than just a learning community, which now has become one district, if you listen to what is being said. It's no longer a combination of 11 districts; it's one district. It's more than making policies; it's more than saying this is what we could do. We need school people involved who understand how people work, how children work, where they need to go. More so we need these people than we need the Legislature. When you talk about cities, I don't care if you're the smallest community in Nebraska or the largest Omaha, the phenomenon works the same. The inner city grows old. People move out to the fringes. They build new buildings. It continues and it continues. Even in my own community of Gretna, the original downtown Gretna is done.