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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. On with discussion. Senator...(Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. Senator Jensen made several good points, and as long as this discussion centers around educating our kids, rather than more importantly protecting boundaries, or more importantly more tax dollars, I think that's the dialogue we need to have. Having said that, I wonder if Senator Kopplin...if he would respond to some questions, please?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kopplin, are you available?

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MINES: Senator Kopplin, thank you. And the reason I call on you is because you have a perspective that I don't have, that few of us do in the body, and I'm truly interested in understanding how integrating, a racial integration or socioeconomic diversity, helps that population of student learn better, or does it matter? I keep hearing that if we have more diversity, those kids that have less income, those kids that don't have the advantages, learn better. Is that true?

SENATOR KOPPLIN: I think research would show that those children, when they get into a mixed environment, do have better test scores.

SENATOR MINES: And those kids that are at a higher income, as an example, do their test scores change at all?

SENATOR KOPPLIN: No, I don't believe so.

SENATOR MINES: Okay, so there is an advantage in a form of diversity, whether again, socioeconomic or racial?

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Yes, there is.

SENATOR MINES: And I'm not trying to lead you into anything. Thank you for that.