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LB 1024

diversity better be part of the solution or I'm afraid we're not going to accomplish anything with LB 1024. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Bourne, there are no further lights on. You may either speak or you may close.

SENATOR BOURNE: I think I'll close, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're recognized.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you. We've had a good discussion, and I do want to reiterate that I do believe there's one consistent theme amongst the administrators I've visited with, Senator Pahls, Senator Kopplin, the other legislators from the suburban districts, everybody wants to do the right thing. Our discussion this morning is what is the right thing? And I appreciate the discussions I've had with people on the other side of the issue from me, and hopefully they agree, the discussions I've had with them. The one thing that we didn't talk about in this discussion--and I had my light on, but I think we've had enough discussion on the whole issue--is the Milliken case. And the Milliken case talks about a situation that happened in the early seventies in Detroit. The inner city of Detroit had a socioeconomic integration problem. The city of Detroit looked to the urban districts--70-some urban districts--and they looked to them to help them with their socioeconomic integration plan. The lower courts supported that, but ultimately the Supreme Court in the Milliken case said no, that if an inner city district, Omaha Public Schools, has an integration problem--whether it's de jure integration or de facto, de jure--they cannot look to the urban (sic) school districts to help solve that, barring some statutory scheme. And what I'm saying is, if we are truly one community, if we are truly trying to do what's in the best interests of our kids, we need to give the learning community the overall, the overarching authority to help assist with integration. The amendment, if adopted, in my opinion would trump the Milliken case, and it would say that we are one community, we are in this together, and we all should assist in the proper education of our kids. I