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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1024

colleagues chose not to vote, and so I guess what I'm saying is, how can we say let's go forward with LB 1024, eliminate the section of statute that would say that all of the community had to participate in integration, and if we eliminate that, rely on the Legislature on a subject, quite frankly, that's uncomfortable--nobody wants to talk about--how can...and then, when you add in term limits on top of that, we're going to have 20 new legislators next year, how can you expect the Legislature to effect the change with a new Legislature, when we couldn't do it with an existing one?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Bourne. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Redfield, followed by Senator Howard.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I rise in support of the Raikes amendment. This is an issue that I think clearly should be addressed in any legislation that is before us, and I think that it's important that we all work together within the metropolitan area, that all members of that learning community that would be formed would have a part in finding the solution for our area. There is no benefit to the Omaha community to have pockets of poverty. We clearly want to have a vibrant and economically stable city. If you're looking at the movement down in the downtown area of Omaha, and you're seeing the condos that are rising, and the pricetags on those are not cheap. So clearly we're building up. Midtown Omaha has plans for the city that will revitalize those inner areas that are caught in the mid range, and I think there are exciting things going on for Omaha. The concern that I have over the school issue is that, in fact, we will put brakes on all of this development in the city, because it's very, very difficult under an SID model, which is what we have used in Sarpy County to develop our neighborhood's new housing subdivisions. No one is going to be able to sell a home to a family when they don't know where their children are going to go to school, and Millard and Elkhorn school districts are not going to be willing to build a school, if they feel that in fact, after they have indebted their own residents with a bond issue, that that school may be taken away from them. So we are going to stymie economic development in the city, and that's not good for the entire state of Nebraska. We need that vitality.