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

April 6, 2006 LB 1024

it's a very clever way to spank OPS for the things they haven't done, and all of us have our critics of that. Three of us would have four different opinions on how they ought to run the place. We recognize that. But I hope every person on this floor recognizes the exceptional progress that OPS has made in mixing and matching across the district, the exceptional commitment that I witness in my own neighborhood where power of a large district is brought to a very small school and changes it. Three of the grade schools in my area have been transformed by support of some of these other places that are now supposed to be moved out of the district. How can we go ahead with that type of a thing if we are to go into segregated units? We have on this map one high school that's 95 percent black a few miles from another high school that is over 90 percent white. And this solution would be just to separate them. It's a give-up plan. It's an outrageous plan. And if we were to choose it, I would consider it one of the most racist acts this Legislature would ever take. I thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Brown, you are the next speaker.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam President and members. Would Senator Raikes yield to a couple questions?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR BROWN: Partly in light of the previous comments by Senator Kruse, is your decision to support this amendment based on some educational principles and...I'll just leave it at that?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. That regarding size of school district, and also, for lack of a better phrase, local control issues.

SENATOR BROWN: You mentioned in your previous remarks something about diversity. Do you see it being as dangerous as Senator Kruse suggested to the diversity, or do you have some idea of how we accomplish that within the framework of the bill?