

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

April 6, 2006

LB 1024

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think all that needs to be said probably has been said, but I will not waive closing because I want to touch on a couple of things. Senator Howard should understand that if this plan that I'm talking about is adopted, people can send their children to this district from anywhere in the city. The segregation that existed in the fifties still exists now and, Senator Howard, the reason I mention Mr. Mackiel, mentioned him, is because he is the one who ended busing and said the purpose is to go back to neighborhood schools, which everybody knew meant segregated schools. If you go through Omaha, you'll see the segregation is there. That's why I'm not even talking about that. That is a given. But here is what is really troubling to me. I mentioned it the other day. Not long ago, the First National Bank donated a copy machine to one of these so-called academies in the black district because everything they copied had to be done at Kinko's. When white people talk about a school, the givens, among other things, would be adequate textbooks, paper, pencils, copy machines, and so forth. If you buy a car, and I've used this example because it simplifies it for me, that is a term which, when used, means all of the elements and component parts are there to give you a vehicle which will move when you put gasoline in it, start it, and you got a battery, and so forth. But it would be preposterous to say that if I go to buy a car I have to specify that I want four wheels, I want a steering wheel, I want a motor, I want a battery, I want a gas tank. They'd say, man, what's the matter with you? I'd say, well, that's the way they do me when I come for a car, and if I don't mention every thing, whatever I mention I don't get. So when you talk about a white school, those givens are there, but when we talk about a school in the black community, and Senator Kruse admitted this, one of the things you're going to be pretty sure of, they don't have adequate textbooks. I'll tell you they don't have adequate supplies. There are schools, so-called academies, where mostly black children attend, and parents and others donate money to the teacher to buy paper, to buy pencils, to buy crayons and other things which white people presume go along with the concept of school. I'm not talking about frills. I'm not talking about Cadillacs. I'm talking about the bare