

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

April 10, 2006 LB 1024

Bourne may not know it. And by the way, we were having a conversation the other day and he's the one who said, Ernie, I know I can't understand what your people go through. He said it. And you know what I told him? There are some things that everybody understands just because they're people. So I didn't lay that on him. He laid it on himself. Guilty conscience needs no accuser. Senator Bourne, I have two words to say to you. Come on! That's an inside matter that we understand, others may not. But I want to read something from the article that appeared in this morning's paper...well, it was in Sunday's paper, from the meeting of those white men. The statement was the first public comment from Omaha's business leaders on issues in the city's "one city, one school district" debate. They had not uttered a word. I brought them together. And here they all united against one black man because he had an idea that would work and do something of value. But let me continue. But the leaders were careful to not express opinions on the school boundary fight as a whole. Because that involves white people. David Sokol, chairman and chief executive officer of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, said the people in the room were not close to agreement on how to resolve that dispute. But when it comes to a matter of black parents having something to say about what happens in the schools where their children come together or attend, all of these powerful men--and some flew from out of the country, I understand; that could be very ego satisfying to me, except that they're combining against our children--they become a collective deranged "Godzilla," tromping and stomping and rampaging through the island of Japan, wiping out everything in their path. But you know what they're wiping out? The children that I care about. They can unite and come from all over the country and other parts of the world to say those parents should have nothing to say about what happens in the schools where their children attend. And then somebody says, well, what about this other issue where there's some white districts out there that don't want OPS to take over them because they want something to say about their situation? Well, we don't want to get into that. We don't have anything to say on that. Why didn't they just be quiet and leave it alone? Because OPS arranged, according to what the paper said, arranged from them to come and speak about something of which they were profoundly ignorant and which they did not care. I'm going to