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FLOOR DEBATE

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parties involved needed a chance to work it out. But as I've listened, and I believe as other rural senators have listened to it, we're hearing the same arguments from both sides, in many cases, that we put forth last year. Senator Connealy yesterday filed an amendment and that amendment will repeal LB 126, so I think the conversation has been opened up here now. We talk about smaller districts being better. We talk about the needs of children. We talk about more parental involvement. Senator Chambers, he wants to have these smaller districts so that the parents of the children can be on the school board and make the decisions on staff and on curriculum. Those were the same arguments that we had. Mr. President, would Senator Connealy yield to a question or two, please? Mr. President, would Senator Connealy yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Connealy, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes.

SENATOR FISCHER: Senator Connealy, why did you introduce this amendment? I didn't...I didn't have anything to do with it and I'm wondering why you introduced it.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Well, if you remember, I was in opposition to LB 126 last year, and I saw some parallels, too. I saw that once we got past first round debate that it was over last year on LB 126, and I see that here, too. I saw a fight, instead of trying to come...trying to fix things, and some of the same parallels, and so I thought we ought to discuss that when we go through this same debate that we're having this year.

SENATOR FISCHER: And, Senator Connealy, do you think your amendment is constitutional?

SENATOR CONNEALY: I think it's probably more constitutional than the underlying bill that it would strike.

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. Thank you. Mr. President, would Senator Bourne yield for a question, please?