

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

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

purpose of trying to address the problems in Omaha, I think a court would be remiss to jump in immediately and order some fantastic solution that OPS would love, especially when we get rid of the 1890-some law that says that we have one school district for one city, not that that even has legal standing, as it is now. If we adopt this amendment, we cool things down, the law...nothing is going to happen in the next 90 days, and we've got our heavy hitters inside the Legislature that can negotiate this with OPS, and maybe some of us that are on the fringe, like myself, would say listen, Omaha, you've got a chance to put a deal together. If you don't put it together, maybe we need to have smaller districts to make things work. But I just think, with the amount of discussion we've had and where we're at right now, I can't vote for a bill that has the dissolution of our state's largest school district in it. And in the same token, I agree with Senator Landis: We need to see some movement from the suburban districts to try and work toward the middle. I'm not saying that they've acted in bad faith. I do think that Omaha has been difficult to work with, and I don't blame suburban district senators for being frustrated with the state's largest school district, but this amendment I think is positive, and ultimately, if a lawsuit is filed, nothing is going to happen before we can get back in the session, anyway. That's my opinion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I don't want to put words in Senator Flood's mouth, but I know that he's talking about the Education Committee amendment, because as a lawyer, he would never recommend the Raikes amendment as proposed here, AM3166. And I don't know if maybe he made a mistake or I'm second-guessing him, but let me tell you exactly what Senator Raikes' amendment does. In my mind, Senator Raikes is admitting that the Chambers amendment is unconstitutional. The amendment that I put on, along with Senator Connealy and the body overwhelmingly adopted last Thursday--and with, I might add, Senator Chambers' blessing, because I think it was Senator Brown asked Senator Chambers if he would support...if he was so confident that that provision is constitutional...she asked him--and I'll go back and check the record--she asked him, would