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LB 1024, 1118, 1138

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Thank you, Senator Heidemann. In Senator Heidemann's previous discussion with Senator Synowiecki, he mentioned that the bills that he introduced in Education Committee and the ultimate goal on both is to increase funding for the small schools. And I got to be honest with you, Senator Heidemann, I had forgotten about both those bills, and if people want to look, it's LB 1118 and LB 1138. And if I recall correctly, and it might have been a procedural issue, Senator Heidemann said that perhaps they weren't drafted appropriately, but I seem to remember Senator Raikes leading the discussion on both of those bills and they were both IPPed. On one of them, LB 1118, Senator Howard made the motion to indefinitely postpone it at Senator Raikes', I would have to say urging, in fairness and full disclosure, and Senator Raikes seconded that motion. So I guess I made a statement earlier and I stand by it and then I heard some of my colleagues express discomfort that I said that, and yet, what other conclusion would you draw? I had talked to one of my rural colleagues earlier and this individual mentioned that there's an amendment coming on Select File and that was part of the deal. That really disturbs me. I'll tell you what, Senator Heidemann, my rural colleagues, and again, I challenge you to go back and look at my record for the last eight years. I would defy you to find somebody that's been more supportive of rural Nebraska. I think that's an accurate statement...except for the prairie dogs, Senator Loudon, you're exactly right. (Laughter) But you won't hold that one little slight against me and you will hopefully vote against cloture. Look. If you need extra funding, I don't dispute that. But I don't understand why the cost of supporting LB 1024, it's \$2 million to affirmatively segregate the school district in the largest city in the state. That doesn't even make sense. There is no doubt in my mind that there's a trade going on here that funding is increased because, as you all know, the Speaker has the ability to order these amendments. And as a courtesy to Senator Raikes...Senator Raikes made clear that this was a priority that this amendment should go up to the top. Now I will tell you that there's another amendment coming down that's comprehensive that includes AM3237. And I made a commitment that I would not object when they try to substitute that amendment and it's coming. But I'll tell you in my mind in our