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FLOOR DEBATE

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areas, those areas that have been drawn by OPS. So as the debate continues, I'm going to locate that language which would be my amendment and is a part of that thick amendment because it has been adopted and make sure that those words were stricken. If they were not, then I will offer an amendment to strike those words. I am in support of that thick amendment, and we have talked during the discussion about how much this bill means to us for one reason or the other. The amendment of mine is what gives the bill interest to me. The other matters may have importance standing alone or in combination. If people think that a court is going to say that a district of any kind, whether it's for legislative redistricting, congressional redistricting, or school redistricting, is going to wind up with a majority of black people, Latino people, Native Americans, or any other so-called minority group, if the mere fact that they predominate in the district renders it unconstitutional, then the 11th Legislative District is unconstitutionally drawn, as are most of the districts throughout this country from which a black representative was elected. It would be beyond foolishness to say that racism is what led to the creation of the districts under this bill which simply are premised on the same attendance areas drawn by OPS. But you know what people say? Well, when OPS drew those boundaries and called them attendance areas, that's not racism, that's not segregation. But if you leave exactly the same people, have exactly the same boundaries, but substitute the word "district" for "attendance areas," oh, that is state-sponsored segregation. Well, what the Omaha Public Schools system has done is indeed state-sponsored segregation because Superintendent Mackiel stated explicitly that he was eliminating busing and going back to neighborhood schools, so that children would attend elementary schools in the neighborhoods where they live which meant segregated schools. A school system was superimposed on a residentially segregated geographic area and courts have not accepted that. But the fact is that the federal courts are looking with a much different view on racial segregation in the public schools. They have moderated their view. And while people who have not carefully read Brown v. Board of Education laud it to the skies...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.