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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because the court did say that there's no separate but equal, that separate schools based on race are inherently unequal, then OPS has violated Brown v. Board of Education. But the words that led to all of the problem, four of them, "with all deliberate speed," those four words which the U.S. Supreme Court gave as a formula for eradicating state-sponsored segregation in the schools led to litigation for decades, some of which is ongoing now because the court never defined those words. My amendment at least gives specific criteria as guidelines for drawing these districts and race is not one of them. The talk shows, careless editors, and others even on this floor have said race is the basis for drawing. If that is true...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then OPS committed the offense first. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers, Senator Raikes, opened on AM3258. Open for discussion. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Brown and others.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I pushed my light to speak way back when there was a different amendment up, but certainly the debate is still at hand on the underlying issues of LB 1024. And I don't shy away from the issue when we talk about the issues at hand because we must do that, and I would suggest that if the state does nothing, that is state-sponsored segregation. If we do nothing, that indeed is state-sponsored segregation. I go back to the fact that a school district of 45,000 students is way too many, way too many students to be managed appropriately, and that's without digging into the numbers. And Senator Synowiecki suggested that this was an abnormal move in terms of the ordering of amendments, no, it isn't. It happened two years ago, and I won't even expound upon that. But the fact is we need to do something here. And I think that we're heading in the right direction and certainly the debate, I think, has been very good, very good. And although it does make me nervous to do so, I will yield my time, the balance of my time, to Senator Bourne.