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FLOOR DEBATE

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fit in altogether, and may lead to more sparse and very sparse districts than we actually need. And, in fact, I think we will have a discussion before this debate is over on the fact that it appears that some school districts are actually reconfiguring now so as to create sparse and very sparse districts. So that what's happening under the current incentive program is that not only do they get the incentive to redistrict but they then benefit from the advantages of being in a scarce...a sparse versus very sparse district, and that's something certainly nobody would intend. But if you could get this kind of detailed plan in hand, then you could start looking at this question in a really meaningful way rather than encouraging with state money a process that by its very nature is uncoordinated and has to be haphazard and, therefore, considerably more expensive than would otherwise be the case. It's working at the problem from different directions, but I think it's important that we have in front of us information that comes to us giving us a picture of the thing as a whole, and not just giving us the picture piece by piece through the lens and filter of a particular group or person who is in this part of the state or that part of the state. And maybe we ought to look, this is not a part of this amendment, but you will also then have the option of looking at incentives for certain types of consolidations but not for others. Do you think there should be incentives for all consolidations regardless of their results? I'm not sure if you looked at the detail at different specific situations that you would want to say that. At any rate, it would be of great advantage to all, I think, to have objective information put together for the very first time; for the very first time in the history of the state we could get some objective information of a group of people who represented everybody...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...on what made sense in this area. And then, at least I, for one, would feel a lot more comfortable encouraging incentives of one type or another. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On the debate on the Beutler amendment to LB 313, Senator Brown, did you wish to...I do not see Senator Brown.