

that got Omaha \$75 million in sewage funds from the federal and state government and one thing after another, knowing that the cities had their problems and they needed our help. Okay, I'm asking for some fair treatment for the other parts of the state today and I want to clear up several myths that exist in the minds of Omahans and in the minds of rural Nebraskans. The amendment I offer is a valuation formula. Now you adopted this formula the last time. When I say "you" adopted, I mean simply the Legislature with an overwhelming city vote against some of my very good friends from the rurals who could have gotten a lot more money otherwise, Senator Schmit, Senator Kahle, Senator Hefner, all fought this formula and I argued, treat the cities fair with this because some day you'll want fair treatment from them. So the first myth that I want to clear up is that this is an old formula that particularly helps the rurals. In fact, it was a formula and it is going into effect July 1, that gives dramatic increases to the cities, \$2 million to Omaha, a million and a quarter to Bellvue, a million to Lincoln and we have to give up that money under this formula and the votes that put it on were the city votes last time to get fair treatment and now here is the big secret, and I almost hate to reveal it and there might be people in the room with red faces. I see they are both gone from their seats. I didn't write that formula. That formula isn't Johnny DeCamp's formula. Last year or whenever it was we were fighting this battle I went to the two individuals I felt most represented the cities in this issue and most understood the issue and I said, Vard Johnson and Davy Newell, what would be the fairest thing for the cities? What would you write if you had your choice? And so they did and that is the formula we're talking about now. It is the Vard Johnson-Davy Newell formula that they want to now repudiate but that was acceptable as being fair to the cities when we first did it. Vard Johnson said to me, well, look, if we're talking about property let's talk about all property, tie it to valuation and so I did. And Davy Newell said, that's not good enough if we're talking about property, let's talk about the property that is in the cities, cars, business equipment, let's include that, and so we did and that is the formula I am trying to hold onto that the rurals are trying to hold onto, a formula that was designed to be eminently fair to the cities and was actually authored by two individuals from the cities who now want to say, it is terrible and evil. And we do get cut tremendously in the country. But we think we can survive and we think it is fair and we think we can live with it and we would ask you to hold onto it. Now the second myth that seems to be circulating goes something like this. Oh, we've all been shocked, we're in a state of disarray because a district