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LB 144

SENATOR WARNER: But there could be some buses purchased with those federal funds that qualify for some of the operating money.

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, that is what I am getting at.

SENATOR WARNER: This is to buy gas and provide drivers.

SENATOR NICHOL: In your honest opinion, what is the fiscal note on this bill? Is it \$250,000, is it \$400,000 or is it \$650,000?

SENATOR WARNER: I think based upon the amendments that were adopted by the committee which has some impact of reducing its cost, I am guessing around \$125,000 give or take, and it is a guesstimate in any event because no one really knows how many might apply for it but I think that is a reasonable guess and the only issue is that if there is an A bill with it that adds the money, why then Omaha and Lincoln are left whole in terms of what they currently receive. If you do not put the A bill in, then the cost whatever it is will come out of what Lincoln and Omaha are currently getting under the current appropriation and they would be reduced. So if the A bill goes, Lincoln and Omaha are left whole. They are not fully reimbursed because we never have fully reimbursed them but that is another issue. That is not a part of this issue.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay, thank you, Senator Warner. I hate to talk at this hour of the day because I know everybody wants to get out of here and they are leaving but I think we should be aware of what is maybe happening. I can't imagine ever Lincoln and Omaha losing any money to the rural areas on transportation. In the first place, I don't think they should and I don't think they would and I don't think they would allow that to happen. So we may be talking about something here that we are not aware of, and in talking to the silver-haired daddy, the silver-haired person in my area, he said, "Yes, we would like to have the bill but we don't want to have to pay for it any more than we have been because we are taxpayers, too, and they are. So just because we are doing something for the elderly doesn't mean it may be good. I really think we ought to look at this a little further.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I would like to explain a couple of things. We really need the bill. You can't change route, if you are going to go through the Public Service Commission, to pick up some elderly person