

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I guess if I were still a county commissioner I would look at this differently than I do as a state senator. The thing that bothers me, basically, is the dichotomy that is expressed in this particular body. We are terribly short of resources to run state government. We are terribly... we are under a terrible bind. Already out of that state tax base we return 54-55% of that sales and income tax now to local subdivisions of government. I'm not saying this is wrong. I'm not saying that it is not proper that we do that. But the point of the matter is that we're each year faced with dwindling resources to take care of legitimate state business. Now already this body has put a stamp of approval on another 70 million dollars going back plus two and a half million dollars. We have already eroded the state tax base by allowing Omaha to use a portion of that state tax base to support municipal government. I agree with Senator Warner we are kind of in a stage of change. The Reagen administration is going to be with us for four years. There are going to be some changes. Not only changes in the amount of money that is going to be returned but in how that money may be returned. I'm not convinced that in these vital areas of human services that those funds are going to dry up completely. I think we are going to see a strengthening of the block grant concept where money comes back to states and other local subdivisions of government from Washington. The point of the matter is we don't know what that change is going to be, but we are all pretty well assured that that change will occur. So for us to embark on a multi-year formula here, not knowing, not having good enough grasp of what those potential changes in federal philosophy and federal financing is going to be would be premature. This body itself yesterday, just yesterday, has instructed our Revenue Committee to come out in the next several years with a proposition in revenue sharing. How. . . just yesterday we talked about a new concept and we sunsetted a particular provision to almost guarantee that that concept will be brought before this body. So here again this thing will clarify, it will crystalize, it will become apparent as to what direction we are going to take and the next one, two, three years. So it just seems to me that this is a poor time to embark on a multi-year formula. This is the time to be prudent and maybe hold back before we commit the state to these massive additional multiple expenditures. We are looking at this in another area too. In the area of mental retardation and the regions and we are starting to rethink our position on that particular concept, which initially we put