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LB 364

SENATOR MARSH: I am terribly concerned about the obligation which the state may be making of itself liable for at this particular....do I understand that the project which you are talking about costs more than \$50 million?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, it does.

SENATOR MARSH: Is it true that even if the total \$2 million were available it might not all go to this project since there are also other projects?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is true.

SENATOR MARSH: Where is the other...conservatively let's say it all went to that project, where is the other \$48 million supposed to come?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Marsh, I have tried to get information from the Department of Transportation. There is a Professor of Economics at Creighton University named Thomas Nitsch. He is also the President of the Catholic Human Rights Commission and they sent to the Department of Transportation for information. The word came back that there can be no guarantee of future funding on these kind of projects, there cannot even be a guarantee that Congress will appropriate any money for these kind of projects anywhere. But in any case, there have always been more requests for this interstate transfer money than the money Congress has appropriated. So the only thing that can be said is that Nebraska can ask for the money like any other state, but there is no guarantee of any future funding.

SENATOR MARSH: Is it still true that we would be obligated to finish the project by a certain date or else lose additional federal funds?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The idea is that the funding...the authorization for these types of programs will end, and based on the authorizing legislation this project must be completed by 1986, and if it is not, there is not even any federal agency for the state to go to to ask for money because it is over.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell, do you wish to close?

SENATOR NEWELL: I do, Mr. President. I think we need to deal with some facts here that run contradictory to some of