

June 5, 1991

LB 652

LR 186

it, felt that there was no support for it. As I stated when we dealt with this issue on Select File, I thought since the Governor's Office had recommended it somebody would be there to support what he recommended. Had I known he would not be there and nobody else would be there, I would have gone. That takes care of why nobody from North Omaha was there to speak for this proposal. Senator Ashford prevailed on the Appropriations Committee to restore 500,000 dollars, which the Appropriations Committee did, and I'm pleased that that was done. On Select File, I asked that you would add an additional 500,000 dollars to bring the amount to the million dollars that the Governor had recommended. At that time, the Governor's Office did not indicate to me opposition to that and, from what I can gather, he had not indicated it to anybody else. And maybe at that time he had no reason to because prior to that I had not spoken against LR 186. I went to his office to talk about another matter, the increase by way of merit pay for our employees, and when I walked in the Governor said, I know what you want to talk about, and surely enough it was the merit pay issue. Not one time did the Governor tell me he intended to veto this money out of this North Omaha program. At no time did he tell me that, and we talked for a good little bit of time in his cloistered place over in that vault. He did not express to anybody else his intent to veto this money out. You have a letter on your desk which I shared with you which was written to me by John Cochran (phonetic), who is with...president and chief executive officer of Norwest Bank in Omaha, and he may have sent each of you a letter addressed to you individually, explaining the value of the program, the work that has been done, the types of people and quality of people who are serving on the board of directors of this program, pointed out the nature of the projects that have been funded and the ones that are under consideration and should be funded now. In addition to that, the original 1 million dollars that was put into the program, and that is not a large amount of money, has just about been exhausted. I hope that you will vote with me to override this veto. As was pointed out by Mr. Cochran (phonetic), this area of North Omaha is the most economically depressed area in the state. This program has brought together disparate individuals and groups to try to make a viable economic entity. Why the Governor vetoed it I have no way of knowing, but thus far over 3 million dollars of attempted veto overrides have failed, have failed. Additional millions exist as being cut out because no veto overrides were attempted. Over 1 million dollars, well, 1,480,000 dollars, was taken from the R & D Authority alone, so