

September 28, 1992 LB 11

advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, now we get to probably a little more lively discussion with LB 11. What LB 11 technical does, as many of you remember who were here in the 1989 session, this body passed a Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund which is basically a four and a half million dollar a year appropriation to the municipalities in the State of Nebraska with the intent of addressing their infrastructure needs. That was the bill that was passed. There was a great deal...there's still some confusion, I mean, it was funded by cigarette tax but it was not a cigarette tax earmark. It was not like three cents was from the cigarette tax into MIRF, it was an actual \$4.5 million appropriation, came straight off the top of our 28-cent cigarette tax. If it took four cents or eight cents to get that out of the cigarette tax, they get the first call on that. So it's not a cigarette tax earmark in the...such as we often think of where you're earmarking two or three cents a pack directly to MIRF. It was a dollar earmark, \$4.5 million a year. As I said in committee the other day, I mean, the reason we are here in special session is...we can certainly say is the Medicaid situation has accelerated our problem to almost, shall we say, a crisis situation where you have to meet in special session. I mean, Medicaid...I mean, obviously, you have a \$153 million problem, since we adjourned 15 months ago, you could say that 147 of that was the fact the Medicaid bill increased unanticipated by that amount. But never the...even though Medicaid accelerated our reason for being here, I have always said the real reason the State of Nebraska has budget problems is, as often is the case, and I think Senator Warner's LB 80 from last session, and others before, we live in a boom and bust mentality, a boom and bust cycle in this Legislature. We cut back then we have money, we tend to spend it on very worthwhile causes. And, in the late eighties and in 1990, eighties, late eighties and early nineties, this body had money, we made a variety of commitments that certainly, in my opinion, were not made with enough long-term vision because we knew we could not sustain those at that funding level over time. Things such...a lot of things we do without raising taxes. Obviously, LB 89, LB 91, the Help Education Lead to Prosperity Act, was originally passed at \$20 million. MIRF was something that passed at \$4.5 million in the '89 session. You go along,